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More Questions Than Answers

City Health Director Bans Bathhouse Sex

By David Lamble

SAN FRANCISCO — The public health director of this city, which probably symbolizes sexual freedom for gay men more than any other city in the world, has decided to ban "all sexual activity between individuals...in public facilities in San Francisco where the transmission of AIDS is likely to occur."

Dr. Mervyn Silverman made his announcement at a packed news conference with a contingent of well-known gay activists behind him. The news conference was limited to credentialed media persons to avoid a "circus-like atmosphere" created by gay demonstrators voicing their opposition to the gay sex ban at the baths.

Silverman indicated his decision had been reached after a six-hour weekend meeting with a dozen national and local AIDS experts at which "all available options" had been explored. Silverman indicated his decision to ban sex at licensed public facilities was a "unanimous position of this group," which included Dr. Marcus Conant, president of the National AIDS/KS Foundation, Dr. James Curran, director of AIDS

activity at the Centers for Disease Control, Dr. Paul Volberding, director of the AIDS Clinic at San Francisco General Hospital, Dr. James Chin, chief of the Infectious Disease Section of the California Department of Health Services and two representatives of the gay doctors' group, Bay Area Physicians for Human Rights, Dr. Richard Andrews and Dr. Robert Bolen. Not included in this list of "AIDS experts" were any representatives of the well-organized Persons with AIDS group, although at least one PWA was known to have attended the meeting at which the sex ban was hammered out.

Silverman's announcement raised as many questions as it answered. There was no deadline given by which time San Francisco gay bathhouses are expected to comply with the "no sex" rules. There were no specific procedures laid out by which public health inspectors were supposed to ensure the sex prohibition was being observed.

The issue of masturbation was not brought up once by Silverman or any member of the news media present at the news conference.

GCN has learned from several members of the lesbian and gay community close to the decision-making process that in all likelihood, masturbation, including mutual masturbation, would be allowed at gay bathhouses. However, it was not spelled out in the news conference to avoid giving the straight news media the impression that strong steps were not being taken and because it was not considered a "tasteful" subject for "family" newspapers and television. One reporter from the gay press quipped, "Have you ever seen the word 'masturbation' in the *Chronicle*?"

Dan Turner is a person with AIDS who has been closely monitoring the debate within the gay community and the medical community on the subject of banning sex at gay bathhouses. Turner points out that Silverman's public position seems to ignore the consensus reached at the gay town meeting held last week at the Pride Center.

Turner said, "He didn't take the impetus of what the town meeting was really saying, he didn't take it to heart. He and the doctors just went ahead with what they wanted



Dr. Mervyn Silverman

to do, which was to stop sex at the baths, and that's what the press statement says. Most of the people in the community at the town meeting were not for that. They wanted some modification. They wanted some major modification, not total elimination of sex at the bathhouses. They wanted for people to still make those personal decisions about private encounters, using condoms and having 'risk reduction cards' available."

Dan Turner believes that although Silverman's statement is interpreted as a compromise in some quarters, what it actually seems to be is the enactment of the Larry Littlejohn initiative without putting it to the voters.

Gay activist Larry Littlejohn is widely conceded to have kicked off this latest controversy about the future of the bathhouses and sex clubs with his plan to seek signatures for a November ballot proposition which, if passed, would have ordered the Board of Supervisors to pass an ordinance banning all sex at the baths. Littlejohn says his initiative "is now moot." "I think Dr. Silverman has done exactly what the purpose of my initiative was, and that was to address the problem of high-volume, multiple anonymous sex acts."

Littlejohn said that he was prompted to put forth his ballot measure because of what he con-

siders wholly inadequate educational material about AIDS coming from the gay community and the Public Health Department. "There's not one word in any of these three pamphlets that are out now to warn you that AIDS is deadly. It's the most sanitized information you could possibly get. You could read these pamphlets and think that AIDS is nothing more than a serious case of herpes or venereal disease. AIDS is not VD," Littlejohn said.

Another conflict that still looms following Silverman's announcement is the possibility of legal action by the bathhouse owners, faced with the prospect of the virtual elimination of their very profitable businesses. Prior to Silverman's announcement on the ban of sex at the bathhouses, members of the Northern California Bathhouse Owners Association agreed to make major changes in the way they do business. Those changes included the end of glory holes and the conversion of orgy rooms from darkened rooms for multiple sexual encounters to well-lit game rooms encouraging social interaction.

Silverman's latest stand would appear to strike at the heart of the bathhouse business — for decades they have served as places where gay men could meet other gay men for the purpose of sex in the privacy of rented rooms or

(Continued on page 6)

Chinatown and the Plague

Medical Scapegoating: An Historical Perspective

By Allan Berube

SAN FRANCISCO — Gay bathhouses and sex clubs aren't the first institutions to be scapegoated for the City's inability to stop an epidemic. At the turn of the century, the San Francisco Board of Health took extreme measures against the residents and buildings of Chinatown during an outbreak of bubonic plague.

From the time it was first established in 1870, the San Francisco Board of Health considered Chinatown the main source of disease in San Francisco. It cited current medical theories to blame Chinatown's "unwholesome odors" for spreading sickness through the air, instead of ending the overcrowding and poverty forced on the nearly all-male Chinese population by racial prejudice. In 1880, the Board of Health officially declared Chinatown a public nuisance and its people a "health-defying and law-defying" population. This medical scapegoating left the Chinese extremely vulnerable to a local health panic.

On May 6, 1900, the panic hit when the City's first case of bubonic plague was officially diagnosed in a Chinese man. The next day a rope and police guard were placed around Chinatown to quarantine its residents. During the next few months, health officials ordered every house in Chinatown disinfected, and both Chinese and Japanese Californians were forbidden to leave the state without federally-issued medical certificates. Federal health officials began plans to set up detention camps for San Francisco's 14,000 Chinese people at Angel Island, China Cove and in a Mission Rock warehouse.

Under attack while their own people were dying, the Chinese

community fought for its survival. Faced with inadequate health care from the city, the Chinese community opened and financed its own Tung Wah Dispensary. Their lawyers took legal action against the quarantine measures and detention camp plans and won in federal courts, angering public health officials. When health inspectors began door-to-door searches, panicked residents locked their doors, hid their sick in basements, and rioted in the streets.

Despite this resistance, health officials continued to scapegoat the Chinese people and Chinatown in an effort to stop the epidemic. In the spring of 1903, the state Board of Health recommended that Chinatown be razed to the ground and saturated with chloride of lime and carbolic acid. Some buildings were condemned and destroyed, but before the plan could be completed, the 1906 earthquake and fire had destroyed downtown San Francisco, including Chinatown.

Of the 121 cases of plague recorded in the city during the epidemic, 118 died, almost all of them Chinese. As a result, bubonic plague became known locally as "an Oriental disease, peculiar to rice-eaters."

In 1907, a second outbreak of bubonic plague hit San Francisco, but this time few victims of the disease were Chinese and the Board of Health had scientific evidence that rats and fleas spread the disease, not the people, buildings and odors of Chinatown. A city-wide campaign to rat-proof basements and alleys quickly stopped the epidemic.

The gay community in 1984 is as vulnerable to health panics and scapegoating as was the Chinese community in 1900. Both com-

munities have been forced into urban undergrounds and stigmatized as sources of a deadly disease with no known cure. Because most of its victims in the United States have so far been gay men, AIDS, like the "Oriental disease peculiar to rice-eaters," has become stereotyped as a homosexual disease, peculiar to promiscuous bathhouse patrons.

A wave of AIDS scapegoating already threatens to get out of control: Stereotype and quarantine the victims, ban "gay blood," ban poppers, close gay restaurants, become celibate, stop AB 1, pass new anti-sodomy laws. Recently, this desperate search for simple solutions led to a panicked call to outlaw bathhouse sex and to close all gay bathhouses.

Bathhouses have to change and change fast. But symbolic actions such as closing the baths or banning all bathhouse sex before we have even tried to transform them are dangerous and set the stage for a frightening scenario similar to that in Chinatown 80 years ago. Scapegoating didn't stop the plague then and it's not likely to stop AIDS now. But it will invite a wave of attacks on our communities. Instead of wasting time defending our very right to exist, as Chinatown was forced to do, we need to devote all our energy and resources to the task of making the sexual changes that will save our lives.

The preceding is excerpted from an article by Allan Berube which appeared in the April, 1984 issue of Coming Up! The source for the history of the San Francisco plague epidemic is "The Chinese as Medical Scapegoats in San Francisco, 1870-1905," by Joan Trauner, California History, Spring 1978, p.70.



Protestors outside Silverman's first press conference where he announced he would delay his bathhouse sex decision.

News Notes

quote of the week

"If you read the speeches of the Democratic presidential hopefuls, it might be easy to conclude that the Democratic Party is made up of homosexuals, pacifists, feminists and those anxious to share the wealth — that is to say, to share your wealth. Well, we know that is not what responsible godfearing rank-and-file Democrats want."

— Sen. Jesse Helms (R-NC), addressing the Conservative Political Action Conference last month. Helms, a born-again Republican, noted in his speech that "conservatives must be ready to win again in 1988."

Oddly enough, the former congressman from Maryland, Bob Bauman, recently declined an invitation to make the keynote speech to a North Carolina gay and lesbian conference because he didn't want his remarks to be construed as an attack on his old friend, Jesse Helms. One wonders what Helms' godfearing constituents would think of him hanging out with a (Republican) homosexual.

oberlin pride

OBERLIN, OH — Barbara Smith, black lesbian feminist writer and activist, will address the Oberlin College Gay/Lesbian Pride Conference, to be held April 16-21 at the college. The annual event, sponsored by the Oberlin College Lesbian and Gay Union, will cover a wide range of issues, including religion, families and AIDS. The student gay and lesbian group is forming a communications network for gay and lesbian alumni of Oberlin. For more information, call (216) 775-8131.

eddie murphy asks gays to kiss his ass

SAN FRANCISCO — Comedian Eddie Murphy continues to astonish with his blatantly homophobic remarks. In a recent *Rolling Stone* interview, Murphy told gay people who were angered by his inflammatory and inaccurate remarks about AIDS to "kiss my ass."

Murphy said that "people who are insecure got offended" at his attack on gay men. But he also said that he might reap some economic benefit from the whole episode. "The way I feel about it is, what they did helped my album because the majority of the country is heterosexual, and they read that homosexuals don't like Eddie Murphy and they think, 'Hey, all right.'"

Despite his tasteless remarks about AIDS, Murphy calls his comedy "good time" comedy. And he said that the group of gay people which raised money to take out an ad protesting his offensive comments had overreacted. Murphy: "They blew it all out of proportion, and if they want to, I don't give a fuck."

task force calls for monitor boycott

NEW YORK — The National Gay Task Force (NGTF) has issued a call urging a boycott of the *Christian Science Monitor* by Broadway theatre organizations. Virginia Apuzzo, NGTF executive director, wrote a letter to New York theatrical companies asking them to boycott the Boston-based nationally distributed newspaper. Apuzzo noted that the *Monitor* has fired several employees in the past two years because of their homosexuality, including Jim Ogan and Christine Madsen, both of whom have filed suits against the paper.

The real impetus for the *Monitor* boycott, however, was the paper's response to an inquiry from George Furth, an award-winning playwright and a longtime member of the church. The paper's manager told Furth: "... For a church member to work in the headquarters of the organization that was founded 'to reinstate primitive Christianity,' as the church manual states, is to accept an obligation not only to believe these precepts but to represent them uncompromisingly to the world. It just doesn't make sense for anyone who is unalterably committed to the gay lifestyle (and who believes that the healing of homosexuality is neither possible nor desirable) to seek or expect employment in our church organization..."

According to Apuzzo's March 21 letter to New York theatre companies, Furth withdrew his membership in the Christian Science church. She also noted the American Friends Service Committee has discontinued its advertising in the *Monitor* because of the paper's stance on homosexuality.

Apuzzo's letter was sent to 20 companies and individuals, including the Obie-winning gay playwright/actor Harvey Fierstein and gay theatre owner/producer John Glines.

asian lesbians get together

BROOKLYN, NY — A new organization of Asian lesbians will publish a newsletter this year, according to a letter to the editor which appeared recently in *New Women's Times*. The Asian Lesbians of the East Coast have been meeting for several months and have composed a workshop presentation entitled "Women Who Breathe Fire." The group offers this workshop to interested women's groups. They also seek contributions of calendar items, graphics, news reports, reviews or other items for the newsletter. Contact them at ALOEC c/o K. Hall, 320 Eastern Parkway No.6D, Brooklyn, NY 11225.

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lesbian eludes court-martial

PHILADELPHIA — A lesbian who wanted out of the Air Force has secured an "other than honorable discharge," but only narrowly escaped being court-martialed for fraudulent enlistment, according to the *Gay News*.

The woman obtained legal help from David Webber, a Philly attorney who often handles military cases. Webber said the woman had been charged with fraudulent enlistment because she denied she was a lesbian on her enlistment papers.

When the woman tried to get out of the military by admitting she was a lesbian, the Air Force launched an investigation into her sex life. Office of Special Investigation agents interviewed the woman, her current lover and her former lover to gather information that they said would "help the woman get out of the Air Force."

After her Wing Commander began court-martial proceedings, Webber filed a motion to dismiss the case, which the Air Force dropped on March 16.

Webber said that "people ought to be aware that when someone from the various investigative branches comes around... you don't want to answer questions. If you do, you're likely to hurt your friends in the military."

london's gay/lesbian bookshop raided

LONDON — Customs police raided the only gay and lesbian bookstore in England on April 10 and took the store manager into custody for questioning, according to the store's supplier of American gay and lesbian literature. Ed Hermance of Giovanni's Room in Philadelphia told GCN that London's Gay's the Word bookshop had just been shipped "the biggest order they've ever made." Hermance said he had been advised of the raid by a man who is setting up a London distribution office for Giovanni's Room.

According to Hermance, Gay's the Word manager Amanda Williams was questioned for six hours by officers from Her Majesty's Customs and Excise. Hermance also said that books and other reading material from the U.S. were confiscated in the raid. The officers were in the shop "for a long time" and "took books right out of the store."

Hermance said that another earlier shipment of books to the store had been seized on Jan. 9 and that Gay's the Word has been suffering harassment by the customs agency for some time. Gay's the Word ordered about \$50,000 worth of materials from Giovanni's Room in 1983.

first victory under wisconsin's gay rights law

LAKE GENEVA, WI — A man who lost his job because he is gay won a settlement on March 20 with his former employer and so became the first person to successfully pursue a discrimination charge under Wisconsin's gay/lesbian rights bill, according to *Equal Time*. Wisconsin is the only state in the union to have enacted comprehensive statewide anti-discrimination legislation.

Jim Taylor was fired from his job as an assistant chef at the Lake Geneva country club the morning after he appeared on a TV show entitled "Gay in Milwaukee." The club management said he was fired because of "poor performance." Taylor thought otherwise and pursued discrimination charges against the club with the help of the Wisconsin Civil Liberties Union. The court awarded Taylor over \$1000 in back pay. Although he had asked for his job back when he filed the charges, he later found employment elsewhere and dropped his request for reinstatement.

Twenty-two other cases of anti-gay discrimination have been filed with the Wisconsin Equal Rights Division, but Taylor is the first person to have reached a favorable settlement. Taylor told *Equal Time*, "It's not a financial victory for me, but a victory for the entire community. Now there's precedence. It can give the gay community hope that a legislature can pass laws and some are actually going to help."

washington abortion clinic torched again

EVERETT, WA — Arsonists torched the Feminist Women's Health Center here for the second time on March 26. The Center has been under attack by right-wing anti-abortion groups since it opened its doors in August, 1983.

Women have formed a Defense Committee which seeks a permanent court injunction against the anti-abortion groups to halt their harassment of the clinic staff and clients. On April 19, the Committee will appear at the Snohomish County Court to request the injunction.

The two fires — the first occurred last December — caused \$50,000 in damages, not including two months of lost income while the Center closed for repairs. Insurance costs have tripled and staff salaries have been cut to meet expenses, and the Center owes \$5000 legal fees. Tax deductible donations may be made to: The Everett Feminist Women's Health Center, 1712 Pacific Ave., Everett, WA 98201.

'aids funding is sufficient'

WASHINGTON — Twice last month Reagan administration health officials told congressional committees that the proposed \$53.9 million budget for AIDS research and information is sufficient, according to gay journalist Larry Bush. Bush reported that Margaret Heckler, secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, and Dr. Edward Brandt, the assistant secretary for health, both testified that adequate amounts of research funding had been budgeted for the fiscal year beginning October 1.

Jeff Levi, National Gay Task Force Washington staffperson, said the administration appears to be relying on the assumption that one of the theories now being researched will turn out to be correct. A similar line of reasoning used by the Reagan administration last year resulted in requests for supplementary funding when researchers came up empty-handed.

got those intervention blues, friend?

SAN FRANCISCO — Finding yourself angry and frustrated about Reagan's mining of the Nicaraguan Pacific coast harbors? Have you had it up to your eyebrows with millions of dollars of U.S. aid pumping up the puppet/thug government of El Salvador? Are you sickened by the idea of more and more CIA hankypanky in Central America? Want to do something about it? Lesbians and Gays Against Intervention (LGA) may be the group for you!

LGA sees its particular contribution to international solidarity with the liberation movements of Central America as the mobilization of the lesbian/gay community to oppose U.S. intervention. An offshoot of the Lesbian/Gay Task Force of the San Francisco El Salvador Initiative Campaign, LGA is committed to an anti-racist and anti-national chauvinism approach. The group's literature and events are bilingual. One of its major goals is to combat homophobia in the Central America solidarity movement.

For information, write LGA, PO Box 4971, SF, CA 94101.

NOW Activist Replaces Endean

Gay Lobby Hires New Executive Director

By Christine Guilfooy

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Gay Rights National Lobby (GRNL) has hired a new executive director, Vicky Monrean, active in the National Organization for Women (NOW) and current regional director of the U.S. Committee for UNICEF. Monrean, who will take the \$34,000 post on May 1, replaces Steve Endean. Endean resigned last fall amid intense public criticism of his performance from *The Advocate's* publisher David Goodstein and political columnist Larry Bush.

Monrean, a lesbian, worked for NOW for five years as a special assistant to then-president Eleanor Smeal and was responsible for direct mail fundraising. Before working with Smeal, Monrean was active in feminist politics, organizing for passage of the Equal Rights Amendment and reproductive rights issues. She currently is a member of NOW's national board of directors.

Jerry Weller, deputy director of GRNL under Endean and acting executive director in Endean's absence, describes Monrean as "highly competent." Weller said she understands the political process and how to work with the lesbian/gay community and is able to keep "a lot of different people aware, informed and involved in what's going on."

While Monrean's administrative

abilities and political experience were important in the hiring process, her fundraising skills apparently loomed large in the fiscal year ending in March. Weller told *GCN*, "Her background in direct mail fundraising, which is one of the major ways that we raise money, is just phenomenal." Weller also said that the GRNL deficit for the year reached as high as \$72,000, but that GRNL supporters are confident it can recover from a difficult year, both politically and organizationally.

GRNL's objectives are to lobby on behalf of the lesbian and gay community on Capitol Hill and to serve as a watchdog on federal legislation as well as to push the lesbian and gay civil rights bill and immigration reform. Currently, GRNL is working with Rep. Barney Frank's office on a bill which would allow openly gay people to serve in the military.

In the five years that Endean served as GRNL's executive director, the organization grew in size, visibility and credibility. Endean said he resigned because his effectiveness was diminished by severe and frequent criticism from Goodstein and Bush. Goodstein accused GRNL of ineffective fundraising and mishandling of funds. Bush said that GRNL had lost touch with the grassroots, and as a result was unable to push

legislation and lobby for higher appropriations for AIDS.

Over the years, conflicts between GRNL and other organizations arose, particularly over issues of lobbying responsibilities. When asked how she intends to work with other national gay organizations, Monrean replied, "Cooperatively, I hope. The existence of all of us is important to show diversity and numbers. There are people that one organization may know that another does not. For that reason we need to work cooperatively. I've worked on the Hill. You have to know what you're asking for and diverse people in the community have to be agreed so that you can reach your goal."

Jeff Levi of the National Gay Task Force Washington office said there has been tension between the two organizations because of the nature and structure of each of them. "This can be healthy or unhealthy. We're making an effort for those to be as healthy as possible."

Although Monrean has had experience in NOW, she has not been active around lesbian and gay issues. However, she told *GCN* that while she has not concentrated her efforts on lesbian and gay rights, she is familiar with the issues. And Weller believes with that base, she can quickly learn what she needs to know. "What

she has to learn is who the players are in the gay community," Weller said.

Monrean said that two of her priorities "once I find my desk" are to work on AIDS appropriations and to continue to secure sponsors for the gay and lesbian federal civil rights bill.

And what kind of role will Monrean play within GRNL? "Fundraising and administration are my profession, lobbying is my avocation. I'll act as a coor-

dinater. My philosophy is, whatever is necessary will be done. . . . Every aspect of the community at every level must approach Congress. When I'm the best person to go in and talk, I'll do that. If somebody else is the best person, I'll ask them to do it."

Weller, who did not apply for the post, plans to stay on for at least a month after Monrean begins her job on May 1 and then he will move to Chicago.

Task Force Urges More AIDS Funding

By Urvashi Vaid

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Stressing that "the delay in finding a cure [for AIDS] is counted in lives, not days," by the lesbian and gay community, Virginia Apuzzo, executive director of the National Gay Task Force (NGTF), urged a Senate appropriations subcommittee to allocate more money for AIDS research during fiscal year 1985. Testifying on April 11 before the Senate Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Services, Apuzzo also called on the Senate to contract for an independent assessment of past AIDS research and urged federal funding for community-based education and prevention programs.

While the reported number of AIDS cases has tripled in the past year, the Reagan administration's \$53.9 million budget request for 1985 embodies only a 12 percent increase in funding (\$6.5 million more) over 1984 levels. Apuzzo's testimony stressed the inadequacy of both the existing level of funding, as well as the administration's budget request, in the face of the increased need for more research and treatment programs.

Noting that "the blood issue has been used to legitimize discrimination against gay men and lesbians," Apuzzo characterized the government's response to reports of blood transfusion AIDS as "woefully inadequate." Apuzzo's point regarding the funding of research into the transmissibility of AIDS through blood underscored the earlier testimony of Helen Cushnik, from California, whole child contracted AIDS through a blood transfusion and died from the disease. Cushnik, who presented the only other testimony to the committee on

AIDS research funding in the 1985 budget, also called for increased spending and sharply criticized the scapegoating of gay men and lesbians that has accompanied the AIDS crisis.

Apuzzo particularly criticized the lack of a "master plan of attack — one that systematically outlines the work already underway, the approaches and underlying assumptions of this effort, the contingencies that are planned for, and how research by government agencies and outside scientists is coordinated." In order to develop such a plan, Apuzzo called upon the committee to "contract for an independent assessment" of the research funded by the federal government.

NGTF Washington staffperson Jeff Levi noted that such an assessment by independent scientists is needed because there are significant disputes over what has been done and what research needs to be done.

NGTF also called upon the subcommittee to allocate funds for community-based public education and prevention projects. Apuzzo noted that while the Public Health Service and local health agencies could adequately "reassure the general public not to panic about AIDS . . . reaching the groups at risk is something most effectively accomplished by community-based groups themselves. They have greater credibility than the government in discussing such a sensitive subject."

The subcommittee is expected to hike the budget request for AIDS-related research with the full committee and the Senate is expected to ratify its recommendations.

Rhode Island Jobs Bill Dies, Not Backed by Labor

By Christine Guilfooy

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — An employment bill which would protect the working rights of Rhode Island lesbians and gay men died in the state's House Labor Committee without coming to a vote.

The bill, jointly proposed and supported by the Rhode Island Alliance for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights and Rep. Linda Kushner (D - Providence) sought to protect lesbians and gay men from discrimination in employment and would have applied to all employers with four or more workers. Kushner introduced it on the House floor on February 28 and hearings took place before the House Labor Committee on

March 21. Twenty-three persons offered testimony in favor of the bill, 11 in opposition. Much of the opposition came from right-wing fundamentalists and was moralistic in tone.

Marilyn Hines, a spokesperson for the Alliance, told *GCN* that when they introduced the bill, they had not expected to get it out of committee but hoped that they could begin to educate legislators and the public on the issues. However, after the hearing, the committee seemed more receptive than expected and the possibility that the bill could be favorably voted out of committee and onto the House floor became more like-

ly.

Hines told *GCN*, "We got a call [on March 28] from Rep. Kushner saying that the vote would take place but when we got there, she shrugged and said there was no way it was coming up. The only thing we can guess is that the leadership [of the House] killed the bill. They didn't want to consider it because there was a chance the bill would pass."

A noteworthy development in the Alliance's efforts to pass the bill was the statewide AFL-CIO's failure to lend its support despite a request by the Alliance. Diane Cook, a spokesperson for the Alliance, told *GCN* that she was told by the president of the state's AFL-CIO, Edward McElroy, that they were reluctant to lend support to the gay rights bill because it was unlikely to pass and it could split their membership.

However, the AFL-CIO's national convention last September

Continued on page 16

Students Undaunted By Funding Denial

GAINESVILLE, FL — The gay and lesbian student group at the University of Florida believes in the old show business adage, "The show must go on." The University of Florida Lesbian and Gay Society (UFLAGs) salvaged their Gay Awareness Week with the cancellation of only one planned event after the school's student senate turned down the group's request for \$1886 to fund the week's activities.

Shortly before Gay Awareness Week, scheduled for April 1-8, the school's student governing body voted 37-7 against UFLAGs' funding request. Debate on the request centered on whether or not the group deserved funding. One student senator said, "Just because there are homosexuals on campus, that's an illegitimate reason for funding this event."

And another proposed, "We might as well sponsor a Punk Awareness Week."

The gay and lesbian students, however, were undaunted by the senate's rejection. They raised funds from the community, in the form of loans and gifts from individuals and a local organization, the Group for Gay Awareness.

According to Ken Key, the director of UFLAGs, the students incurred a \$450 debt for Gay Awareness Week. Key told *GCN* that although the fundraising efforts were successful, it was a drain on the group. "There were lots of things we could have done if we hadn't had to raise money."

Key said that only one event of the week was cancelled — a forum for which UFLAGs had been unable to confirm a speaker. Key reported no gay-baiting incidents on the campus during Gay Awareness Week, but said some customers of the local gay bar, Spectrum, had been harassed by men driving by the bar.

The UFLAGs annual operating budget for fiscal year 84-85 will come up for approval before the senate on April 17. Despite UFLAGs recent funding troubles, Key anticipates no problems with next year's budget. Last year, the senate allocated \$650 for the group's operating expenses. But later in the academic year, the senate denied UFLAGs' \$500 request for travel expenses to bring a well-known lesbian activist to campus for a speaking engage-

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Anti-Bashing Law Backers Hopeful for Next Year

By Christine Guilfooy

SEATTLE, WA — The Dorian Group, a statewide civil rights organization for lesbians and gay men, successfully pushed an anti-bashing measure through the House of Representatives only to see it killed by a "scope and object" ruling in the Senate.

In spite of the setback, those close to the measure were encouraged both because they say they have the votes to pass it next year and because, according to Jim Holm, the group's president, "It marks the first time either of the Houses has passed a bill specifically protecting gays." In addition, some say the more comprehensive civil rights bill, which has been introduced every year since 1977, also stands a better chance of passage when it is introduced in the next legislative session.

The anti-violence measure,

which passed the House with ease, amended the existing malicious harassment statute which would have made violence or threat of violence against a person because of their sexual orientation a Class C felony. Currently the statute provides protection based on religion and race and was just amended to protect the developmentally disabled. Conviction under the statute provides for up to five years in prison and a maximum fine of \$10,000 and liability for actual and punitive damages up to \$10,000.

Russ Brubaker, a lobbyist for Dorian, told *GCN* that they will have the bill reintroduced next year and he expects it to pass both Houses at that time. Brubaker explained that the scope and object ruling kept the amendment from a vote in the Senate where he thinks it could have passed. Brubaker

said he rests his predictions on the assumption that the makeup of the legislature will not be radically altered by the intervening elections.

Burbaker also said that the comprehensive gay rights bill which covers areas of employment, housing, insurance, credit, financial transactions and public accommodations would have come within one vote of passing this year, had it come out of the Senate Rules Committee for a vote on the floor. He believes that the 1985 legislative session will see passage of the bill.

Debra O'Gara, co-chair of the Stonewall Committee for Lesbian/Gay Rights told *GCN* that she agrees that chances for the two bills to pass in 1985 seem good.

— filed from Boston

Community Voices

white lovers

Dear GCN,

While sitting here under these asinine conditions of incarceration called "prison systems", I decided to write to you and convey a story about "white lovers."

In an earlier edition of your paper, there was an article on "white lovers" [ed: a letter from a black man about his experience with having white lovers]. I would like to expand on and tell your readers what is like to have a white lover while being incarcerated.

Allow me to say that I presently have a little over 26 years as far as the gay life is concerned. But on August 4 1974, I was brought to the Florida Penal System. After being in the prison system for about a month I finally found me a beautiful friend (Shelly). After being with each other a while, we finally got to know each other.

Then as time progressed we fell deeply in love with each other. After being around each other and living in the same cell we became intimately attached to each other.

Then after about two years of serious love, we were broken up by the screws (police). The screws moved her out of my cell because they could not stand the idea of a black and white being together. But even though we were apart we still got together whenever able.

Then on June 1, 1980, my lover was brutally beaten and raped by both guards and inmates because she refused to stop loving me. After being sodomized both by guards and inmates she was thrown into isolation confinement where she had to sleep on the cold concrete slab, for what, nothing. This was done because she was in love with a black individual. After spending a week on a concrete slab they finally decided to give her some clothes and a mattress. During this time she was constantly asked if she would change her feelings about me but she still said "no."

Then on September 15, 1980, she was again sodomized by the screws and inmates. This time things did not work out for her because she died from bodily damages and internal injuries.

To be realistic I can not comprehend why they even put us gays in with people who are so assinine in the first place. Second, I don't even understand why gays even decide to associate with strates any way because in prison they are nothing but a bunch of headaches.

I am new to this prison where I am currently stationed and would appreciate it very much if I could be added to your mailing list for GCN.

Also my name and address can be added to your list for extra books to send out. Thanks for being there, Albert Jones, PO Box 1500, Drawer 343, Cross City, FL 32628.

"club"

Dear Editor:

I am certainly in the forefront of opposing any advertisement censorship in your paper. However, for the past couple of weeks or so, a certain advert has been running under the heading of ORGANIZATIONS which, in my mind, is not an organization. I am referring to the Gay Teenage Boys "Club."

I am heartsick that a group that requests a photo poses as a club for lonely teens. To me, and anyone else who has read the ad agrees, someone seems to be forming a stable using the isolation and anguish of our young brothers as his angle.

Without censoring the ad, can it be placed in another section? PERSONALS appears to be more appropriate for the purposes of the person or persons involved. As a leader in the Lesbian and Gay Male publication field, can you allow to have our oppressed youngsters used by wolves in sheep's clothing?

I am very interested in your thoughts.

Sincerely,
J.P. Fanning
Glen Ridge, NJ

Features Editor

Gay Community News is looking for a full-time Features Editor. Responsibilities include editing features section, monthly book supplements, several additional supplements, weekly calendar (in collaboration with Calendar Editor). Knowledge of lesbian and gay community important; editing and writing skills essential; previous journalism experience helpful. Commitment to feminism and social change and a willingness to work in a collective setting. People of color especially encouraged to apply. \$150/week, three weeks paid vacation, health insurance. Send applications by April 30 to Cindy Patton, GCN, 167 Tremont Street, 5th Floor, Boston, MA 02111, or call (617) 426-4469 for more information.

class

Dear GCN,

The hardest thing about challenging oppressive assumptions about class for me, is that they often come up in interaction with Lesbians about other subjects, and are not intended to be malicious.

Maida Tilchen's article on Radical Rose Recordings (March 24) was very, very supportive of our work, yet contained classist assumptions about my partner and myself that I need to set right. I take partial responsibility for it.

Radical Rose is a non-profit project run by J Haggard and myself. We are both white and gentle. J is working class, and I am from an aristocratic upper-middle class background.

The article says that I am the driving force behind Radical Rose. The overall impression created throughout the article is that I am the one who is the money, politics, and energy of the project, and that J just helps out. None of this is true. We are a full partnership... J's commitment has been just as great as mine. Actually, she is taking a much greater risk than I am, because she doesn't have my class privilege to fall back on.

I like being praised for my work. But it doesn't feel good when two of us devote ourselves (as our Lesbian ethics demand) to Lesbian cultural work, and I get most of the credit.

It's hard to unravel how these dangerous misinterpretations happen. Did I present myself to Maida in verbal or non-verbal ways as a noble (superior) philanthropist who graciously invented and sustained this project? I thought I'd moved beyond that in my class work, but sometimes I have relapses.

I am more well known than J directly because of my class privilege. I have the self-confidence to put out my music, writing, and opinions far and wide. Coming from a family with upper class values, I was taught that I was worth something and that what I had to say was important. Because I have the money to travel and go to conferences, I got to meet Maida at the National Women's Music Festival last summer, and have high visibility in some other communities in the U.S.

So, despite the fact that I said "we" about all our work and mentioned J directly several times, Maida assumed that Radical Rose is primarily my project. I made a mistake by not anticipating that that would happen, and correcting it before it got into print.

There are two factual errors I want to correct. K Krepps is not working class, her background is similar to mine, and her tape *We Were All Outlaws* reflects this. Second, I no longer work for the *Lesbian Inquirer* (J does). We are sister projects, and I love the paper dearly.

Thank you, and Maida, for the coverage. I hope I have cleared up the misunderstandings about us.

Sidney Spinstor
Minneapolis, MN

maida responds

Dear GCN,

My presentation of Radical Rose Recording Company was based solely on information Sidney [Spinstor] provided. In my interview with Sidney last May at the National Women's Music Festival, her only reference to any co-workers was shouted as an afterthought as she ran out the door, saying "I have a partner, it's not just me." Although she spoke of Radical Rose in the third person, she never named anyone else, or described any role held by anyone else in the project. When I wrote in February asking for any updating on how the company might have changed, her reply did not mention any co-workers. All correspondence and phone calls I have had with Radical Rose have been signed and handled solely by Sidney. I only knew to include J Haggard in my article because she is credited on the Radical Rose tapes.

In my writing on women's music over the years, I have made it a point to include "behind the scenes" people, as my many interviews with technicians, supporting musicians, distributors and producers will attest. In this case, Sidney was so vague about the existence or participation of co-workers that I was not clued in to inquire further. Sidney was given the opportunity to present information about Radical Rose, and she chose to speak only of her own role in it.

Sincerely yours,
Maida Tilchen,
Boston, MA

Subscriptions/Renewals

Sometimes our renewal and "Don't Stop Now" notices cross your checks in the mail or get sent out late, and sometimes, it seems, the demons in the computer give us renewal labels that are just plain wrong.

So, before you panic about one of these notices, check the label ("left = _") on your brown envelope. It's more likely to be accurate. If that too doesn't look like the right number of issues left, send us a nice note (with a xerox of your check, if that's possible), and we'll fix it up. Thanks.

not feminist enough

Dear GCN,

I would like to respond to the letter by Sonia Johnson's press secretary, Julie Ainslie about my March 10 article, "Electoral Politics: Realistic Change or Fatalistic Compromise for Less."

I would agree that the article was "inadequate" in its portrayal of Sonia Johnson's presidential campaign as "limited in its message." Given the focus of my argument, I did not discuss her campaign or those of other candidates in any detail.

Ainslie, however, suggests that I and many others find Sonia Johnson limited because she runs on a feminist platform. While it may be true that anti-feminism accounts in part for the lack of attention her campaign has received, I find Johnson limited not *because* she is a feminist, but because her feminism does not go far enough. Johnson identifies patriarchy as *the* problem, and therefore, touches on class and race only peripherally. As she said at a campaign event a few months ago in Cambridge, "In every major society there are two cultures, female and male — polarized by patriarchy. Each has a different value system." I believe feminism, at least in some quarters, has moved beyond this naive, implicitly racist, classist, and anti-gay view.

Sonia Johnson does deserve respect for her efforts to introduce feminism into the presidential debate. And, she is certainly the most radical candidate in sight. Until, however, her analysis of society recognizes more than two cultures, and explicitly addresses the way race, class, and sexuality structure our lives, many feminists will find her message limited at best.

Sincerely,
Stephanie Poggi,
Cambridge, MA

gays indoctrinated with racism too

Dear Prisoner Project,

There's a multitude of people (gays) that has been indoctrinated to believe exactly the same ideas as our parochial government, even though we *know* how we gays are perceived in their eyes (disdain & contempt).

I'm black as far as my hue; my heart is golden as the reflection of the sun — very warm. Many gays resent blacks and oppress. This is the same philosophy that imperialism propagates. And this absurd idea is only initiated in such countries: USA, Germany, Soviet, England, France... I've been to many countries where there was little or no racism. It's ludicrous that some gays have this flagrant mentality, with the realization of being treated viciously cruel by this government and society.

It brings tears to my eyes because I love gay people. These feelings cascade from the chambers of my heart.

Peace,
Cornell Kimmins,
39387
Box 900,
Jefferson City MO 65102

PS. I'm depressed. I'm sorry.

acupuncture and aids

Dear Editor

There has been much discussion in the media regarding the treatment of AIDS by standard therapeutic modalities; however, little attention has been given to alternative therapies.

We are a group of acupuncturists and stress management therapists, working through the referral network of the Aids Action Committee. Acupuncture traditionally treats many of the symptoms associated with AIDS and Aids Related Complex including night sweats, fatigue, loss of appetite, weakness, diarrhea, stress and anxiety. Acupuncture is currently being used to treat AIDS and AIDS-like symptoms in a number of clinics throughout the country. Programs are available in New York, San Diego, San Francisco, and other major cities but until recently not in Boston.

We do not view acupuncture, stress management, nutrition, and other alternative forms of healing as substitutes for primary medical care, but rather as adjunctive therapies. Our desire is to work in coordination with a patient's already existing medical team.

For further information we may be contacted through the referral service of the AIDS Action Committee at 536-7733. We would like to invite interested health care providers to join us at our next meeting. Information about this meeting is also available by calling the above number.

Sincerely,
Terry Courtney
Mary Gerard
Irle Goldman
Joe Kelly
Steven Klarer
Laurie Livingston
Francine Rainone
Beth Sommers
Michael Zucker
Jamaica Plain, MA

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Postmaster: Send address changes to Gay Community News, 167 Tremont St., 5th Fl., Boston, MA 02111.

Speaking Out

Eromin Center Closing: A Tragic Loss

By Joyce Baker

On March 9, 1984, Eromin Center Inc., Philadelphia, closed its doors to the sexual minority community of the tri-state area (New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware). Eromin Center was an out-patient mental health center for gays, lesbians, bisexuals, transsexuals, and transvestites, giving quality mental health care at fees that people with a low income could afford. They accepted D.P.A., insurance, and even gave services to people who couldn't afford to pay anything.

Eromin began ten and a half years ago as an outgrowth of the Philadelphia Gay Switchboard, which was receiving many calls from people who needed more than telephone counseling. In July 1973, Eromin Center, Inc. was created. Eromin stands for EROtic MINorities. Besides counseling, there was a speaker's bureau, a small reference library, and a gay coffeehouse. Eromin had a temporary location which was basically a tent in a basement. In 1974, with the aid of grants, it moved to Naudain St. Eromin also was granted non-profit status. In 1979, Eromin was licensed as an outpatient psychiatric clinic providing more than 5,000 clinical hours per year, and began receiving 3rd party payments from the Commonwealth for clients on medical assistance. Eromin also offered professional training to human service providers. In 1980, Eromin initiated a foster care program and a program for Cuban refugee sexual minority youth referred by the federal government. During 1980-81, a licensed youth services program was established with a group home, services to youth in their own homes, foster care service, a supervised independent living program, and an in-house school program. In 1983, Eromin moved to a larger building and celebrated its 10th anniversary.

Eromin has provided clinical practicum placements for students seeking advanced degrees in social service professions. As a training institute Eromin has trained the Pennsylvania State Police, city personnel in the prisons, youth staff, drug, alcohol, and mental health staffs, as well as hundreds of private agencies, colleges, and high schools.

Eromin has worked closely with several local gay organizations and originated some of them. The staff at Eromin researched and contributed to many publications, worked for change, and has served as consultant to civic leaders, governors, mayors, religious leaders, and law enforcement officers. There were over 115 active female and male volunteers of all ages, races, and sexual orientations. Only the staff of 14 were paid. The volunteers included the counselors, desk people, houseparents, cleaning, secretaries, Board members, and auxiliary personnel, etc.

Why Eromin came to such a tragic demise is a very long and complicated story. Although I know a lot of the reasons and what went on before it closed, I don't know the whole story. I have the unique perspective of being both a client and volunteer at Eromin. So I probably have more knowledge than most. For me everything started August 29, 1983, when the Executive Director, Tony Silvestre, was fired. This was followed two weeks later when Administrative Assistant, Lisa Segal, was also fired. Tony and Lisa were accused of many things by the Board so, for simplicity, I will just say financial mismanagement.

After they were fired, such a cataclysmic war was waged on Eromin by many people that the eventual end was Eromin's closing. This war was waged in the Philadelphia gay press, gay radio shows, and the gay community at large. It was a very dirty battle with accusations being fired by all the "sides" involved. Unfortunately people were forced to take "sides." This was especially difficult for me, because I knew people on both "sides." So for me I felt like the Bible's "King Solomon" in deciding who was to blame. Also the knowledge acquired during the controversy caused me to change "sides" continually. I can't tell you who is to "blame." I can say a lot of people caused Eromin to close and it wasn't just one or

two people who were responsible. Considering which "side" you were on, it was either Tony/Lisa's fault (that's who the Board of Directors accused), or it was the Board's fault (that's who Tony/Lisa blamed). It was never completely resolved who really caused the closing. Like I said earlier, many people, including Tony/Lisa and the Board, among countless others are blamed for the closing. All "sides" seemed so truthful and sincere that choosing became even more difficult than it already was. As one woman I know said "everybody did the best job they could." It just happened to not be enough for Eromin to stay open.

On September 26, the Eromin Corporation Members held what the Board called an illegal meeting. To be an Eromin Corporation Member a person had to volunteer 25 hours or more in a given year. A legal Corporation Meeting had to be arranged by the Secretary of the Board. If not handled by her it was considered illegal. At this meeting the members voted out four of the Board members who were considered the primary cause of the firings. They were Jeff Eiberson, Sharon Dougherty, Kay Whitlock, and Joanne Hyle. Four other people were elected to replace them. They were Michael Rocks, Edith Howley, Donna Record, and Gloria Guard. Since the Board considered the meeting illegal they ignored the results of that meeting. The legal Corporation Meeting was scheduled for October 19, 1983. There was a Board Meeting scheduled between these two dates, during which time the newly elected Board members attempted to meet with the other Board members. There were guards present at the meeting. I don't think much progress was accomplished at the meeting except they promised to meet again to hash things out.

On October 19, the official Corporation Meeting was held where the Board basically gave their viewpoint of the situation at hand. They produced a financial picture of the Center under the former director and what they feared would happen if the Board Members were discharged. The other side was allowed to rebut, but basically it was the Board's viewpoint which was presented. The meeting lasted about five hours with no breaks or rest periods included. The voting was taken and the Board members weren't discharged. A lot of promises were made at the meeting, which eventually became empty promises.

By this time Eromin had a very dirty record in the gay/straight community. After the meeting things went from bad to worse. A debt, incurred during Tony's administration, of \$40,000 - \$60,000 (depending on which report you believed) increased to \$150,000 plus. Eventually Eromin was forced to close.

This has been an incredible loss for all involved — staff, volunteers, clients, and the Eromin kids. I feel badly for us all. But the people I feel the worst for are those who will never be touched by Eromin. All of us involved have memories of what Eromin was and this will live in our hearts forever. But what of the others who will never know Eromin? What is there for them? The people most affected by the closing are the low paying clients and the Eromin kids. Who will help them? Is there help for them available? At this writing it's unknown. There are gay/lesbian professionals available for clients, but only for the ones who can pay or have insurance. For others it's another story.

What an enormous, tragic loss for the gay community at large. Eromin once was a great place. Eromin was like a home for me, a real home. More of a home than where I reside. I had a "family" at Eromin. Those people were as dear to me or more so than my blood relatives. So Eromin's demise has left a huge hole in my heart. A hole that will be very hard, if not impossible, to fill. To me Eromin's demise is a death. A big death. Eromin was to go on forever. It was unfortunately like the Titanic. Eromin was supposed to outlive me, NOT the other way around. Now what will there be for me? For all of us?

getting together

Dear GCN,

Today is a glorious spring day. I just passed through Chapultepec Park, and it looks ravishing in all kinds of green, and the sky is so blue, with only small very white clouds. All this makes you feel so happy to be alive. But the situation for gay people and young people in general is not nice at all. A week ago the police started *razzias* (raids), and lots of gay and not gay people have been taken to the police department off of the main avenues, bars, (gay and not gay), baths, and restaurants. The very first night they started doing it they took along one thousand people, and newspapers mentioned that most of them were prostitutes and gay people.

Immediately all gay people — I mean all groups and associations — we got together to decide what to do about it. First we went to the Chamber of Deputies, and Deputies of many parties complained about it through the radio and TV. But the police seem to ignore it, saying that all this campaign is against crime and robbery and to stop vagrancy in the streets. Last Thursday we had another meeting with Partidos Socialistas Unidos de Mexico (United Socialist Parties of Mexico) and with Partido de los Trabajadores (Workers Party), and we decided to write a manifesto to appear in newspapers. So next Thursday we will collect all the information to be published. Meanwhile we are also working and preparing all the activities to celebrate June as Gay Pride Month. Among the many activities we decided to collect 41,000 signatures on a paper to be presented directly to the President of Mexico (41 is a symbol for gay in Mexico City). This will be after the Sixth Gay Pride March, which will be

this June 30th, and we are already asking associations and individuals all around the world to send letters complaining about police repression, human rights violations, transit rights, etc., in support of the 41,000 signatures that we will present. All letters should be addressed directly to: Sr. Presidente de la Republica Mexicana Miguel de la Madrid Hurtado, Palacio Nacional, Mexico, D.F., Mexico. If possible, please send a copy to Grupo Nueva Batalla at this address: Nazas 52 Esq. Sena, 06500 Mexico, D.F., Mexico; or to Grupo Lambda at this address: Baja California No. 71, Mexico, D.F., Mexico. We hope you will help us by sending letters, and we will appreciate every letter very much.

Besides all this we are having a meeting every first Saturday of the month to get better coordination among different groups and independent gay people. These meetings have been very successful and everything was going along very well till last week when the police started extortion again. The groups that are meeting are: Nueva Batalla, Horus, Unificacion, Iglesias de la Comunidad Metropolitana de Mexico City and Cuernavaca (Metropolitan Community Church of Mexico and Cuernavaca), Grupo del Orgullo Gay de Guadalajara (Gay Pride Group of Guadalajara), Grupo Lambda de Liberacion Homosexual, plus several independent persons. Well, this will give you an idea of how things are down here and that we do need help from all countries. In gay love, Jorge A. of Nueva Batalla

white envelopes?

Dear GCN,

Your April fools issue was excellent! No fooling! Was the white envelope part of the joke? Do you really want my suburban mail carrier to think I'm losing my discretion? Will the infamous plain brown wrapper that gave me such a feeling of secrecy be superseded by a lily white covering? Hey, who's fooling who here? Or did you inadvertently forget to reorder your brown trademark?

Envelope aside, your issue made me laugh. Whoever created the L. Lesbean, Inc. ad is responsible for my sudden outbursts whenever I see a pair of "Gum Shoes" indigenous to the L.L. Bean catalog.

Thanks for the laugh.

In Amusement,
name withheld

[Ed.: Don't worry! Next week we return to basic brown.]

Speak Your Mind! In Community Voices

Gay Community News welcomes letters to Community Voices. If at all possible, your letters should be TYPED AND DOUBLE SPACED and kept to three pages (or less!) in length.

AIDS Resource List

AIDS Action Committee — 16 Haviland Street, Boston, MA 02115, 267-7573

Education and support group for people with AIDS, their families, lovers, friends and health care providers. Provides speakers, conducts forums, rap groups, hospice-trained volunteers, hotline information and referrals. Associated with the Fenway Community Health Center.

AIDS Action Line — 536-7733

AIDS Action Committee service, information, referrals and befriending about AIDS. Trained volunteers.

AIDS Benefit Review Committee

(267-7573) or (725-4849)

Joint subcommittee of Mayor's Committee on AIDS and AIDS Action Committee to coordinate AIDS fundraisers, monitor process and review results. All groups of individuals planning AIDS fundraisers are encouraged to coordinate their efforts with the subcommittee.

AIDS Hotline — (424-5916)

The Community Infectious Disease Epidemiology Program of the City of Boston. Staff of public health nurses answer questions about AIDS, make referrals. Collects city-wide data from hospitals on AIDS cases, forwards data to Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, officially determines number of cases probable and under investigation.

Fenway Community Health Center

16 Haviland Street, Boston, MA 02115 (267-7573)

Hotline information, medical work-ups, diagnosis, referrals, counseling. A gay sensitive health care facility. Participates in research efforts.

Gay and Lesbian Counseling Services

600 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02111 (542-5118)

Gay and Lesbian Hotline — 6:00 pm to midnight, M-F (426-9371)

Provides information on AIDS, makes referrals. Associated with Gay and Lesbian Counseling Services.

Haitian Committee on AIDS in Massachusetts — 117 Harvard Street, Dorchester, MA 02124 (436-2808)

Provides information, referrals, support and emergency assistance to Haitians with AIDS and their families.

Mayor's Committee on AIDS — Room 608, Boston City Hall, Boston, MA 02201 (725-4849)

Coordinates efforts of federal, state, and city health agencies, produces educational material, collects data on cases, reviews policy. Umbrella organization. Media outlet. Conducts forums and provides speakers, distributes AIDS brochures, referrals.

National Gay Task Force Hotline

(1-800-221-7044)

Toll free national hotline run by NGTF to provide information and referrals.

Omega Hospice and Bereavement Program
270 Washington Street, Somerville, MA 02143 (776-6369)

Ongoing free support group for gay men and lesbians dealing with life-threatening illness.

Springfield Downtown Ministry /Council of Churches — 293 Bridge Street Room 205, Springfield, MA 01103-1402 (737-4125)
Counseling and referrals.

Massachusetts Department of Public Health
Maintains a statewide surveillance system on AIDS cases and close contact with the Centers for Disease Control. Does follow-up of diagnosed cases, makes referrals, provides information on AIDS.

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Assessing Their Support of Us

Hart, Mondale, Jackson: A Pragmatic Suggestion

By Jim Ryan

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Now that all three remaining candidates for the Democratic presidential nomination have provided their responses to the '84 and Counting questionnaire issued by a coalition of national gay and lesbian organizations, it may be useful to analyze the candidates' support, or lack of, for gay men and lesbians.

question of federal employment. All three candidates have said that they would issue an executive order banning discrimination based on sexual orientation in agencies of the federal government. Mondale and Jackson have said that this would be done within three months of taking office; Hart has refused to commit himself to a specific date. Jackson

cause of compromising the national security by a federal employee, only further supports my belief that restrictions against such employees have no reasonable basis."

On other issues of importance to gay men and lesbians, Mondale and Hart fall short of the standard set by Jackson. Mondale said he would not stop the Justice Department from contesting court challenges to anti-gay and lesbian policy in immigration law. Mondale wouldn't commit himself to funding the Public Health Emergency Fund that was proposed to deal with crises such as AIDS. Mondale and Hart would not commit themselves to funding research about the psychological and physiological effects of discrimination.

Of the three candidates, only Jackson endorsed the idea of an official liaison to the gay and lesbian community. Hart, who in his responses found it difficult to even use the words "gay and lesbian," would not commit himself to actively seeking the support of gay men and lesbians or ensuring that gay men and lesbians serve on his campaign staff. Indeed, the Hart campaign has thus far declined to seek the endorsement of gay and lesbian organizations that have supported presidential candidates. It seems evident that Gary Hart would not cross the street for our community.

It is relatively certain at this point that neither Hart nor Mondale will arrive at the convention in San Francisco with enough delegates to capture the nomination on the first ballot. Both will scramble for the support of uncommitted delegates and those supporting Jackson. It is also highly unlikely that Jackson will be nominated. But, if he is willing to act as a broker, he may be able to raise concerns of disenfranchised groups on the floor of the convention and extract from those seeking to be the nominee real commitments to address those issues.

Huge demonstrations outside the convention hall are being planned by gay and lesbian organizations in the San Francisco area. Their impact will be limited if our voices and our concerns are not heard inside the hall as well. Due to Cranston's withdrawal from the race, the numbers tell us that there will be far fewer gay and lesbian delegates at the convention in 1984 than there were in 1980. Given that, a pragmatic strategy would be to refuse to support the candidates who are indifferent to gay concerns, and back the candidate who supports gay men and lesbians on the bread and butter issues.

sale of alcohol to minors. Silverman also said that he would seek an extension of his powers from the Board of Supervisors to regulate private sex clubs and backrooms of adult bookstores.

San Francisco Mayor Dianne Feinstein and gay supervisor Harry Britt both reacted to Silverman's announcement with the view that much of what the public health director had laid out was still vague and confusing. Feinstein had put herself publicly on record as favoring a temporary closure of the baths during the height of the AIDS public health emergency. Several lesbian and gay community leaders contacted by GCN expressed the view that shutting down the baths was part of the mayor's agenda to create the kind of atmosphere she wants for the Democratic National Convention.

News Commentary

Recently, Virginia Apuzzo, executive director of the National Gay Task Force, addressed the Democratic Party's platform committee on behalf of the '84 and Counting coalition. She outlined for the committee a gay and lesbian community agenda. At the head of that agenda were two issues on which Jesse Jackson differs markedly from both Walter Mondale and Gary Hart. The first concerns the extension of civil rights protection to include gay men and lesbians, the so-called "legislative remedy."

Currently, there are several bills before Congress that deal with discrimination based on sexual orientation. Of these, the most comprehensive, and the one preferred by every national gay and lesbian organization, is H.R. 2624. H.R. 2624 would add prohibitions against discrimination based on sexual orientation to the existing protections of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. H.R. 2624 deals with public facilities; federal assistance; equal employment; housing sale, rental, financing and brokerage services; and the prevention of violence or intimidation aimed at gay men and lesbians. By contrast, S. 430, the bill that was proposed by Sen. Paul Tsongas (D-Massachusetts), deals only with employment discrimination.

Jackson supports H.R. 2624 and has said that he supports it because it is more comprehensive and would do more to eliminate discrimination aimed at our community. After years of saying that he supports the idea of a legislative remedy, but none of the proposed alternatives, Walter Mondale finally endorsed the weaker S. 430—this an off-hand remark made as he left a function sponsored by the National Organization for Women.

Hart's position on the issue is even weaker. He says he supports legislation "along the lines of the Tsongas bill," though he has refused to become a sponsor of even that piece of legislation.

The second issue about which Jackson leaves Mondale and Hart choking on their rhetoric is the

has promised to extend the order to include the military and the various security agencies, such as the Central Intelligence Agency, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the foreign service and the National Security Agency. Mondale said that he had "yet to reach a decision concerning extension of the ban" to the military and the security agencies, but did promise a presidential commission to study the civil rights conflicts inherent in current policies.

Hart, in a response that many gay men and lesbians found insulting, said this: "In the case of military employment, recent court decisions have upheld the right of the armed forces to limit employment on the basis of sexual orientation. The rationale for restrictions on military employment have evolved around the possibility of blackmail and the consequent risk to national security. A citizen's desire to serve the country should be honored unless the courts deem otherwise or the citizen is not willing to abide by a code of conduct applied equally to all military personnel."

The importance of this difference between Jackson's position and that of the other candidates cannot be overemphasized. Gay men and lesbians simply are not fired in any great numbers from jobs in the Department of Agriculture. But, annually, thousands of gay men and lesbians are fired from or denied positions in the military and with the security agencies. An executive order that does not include the military or the security agencies is nothing more than a symbolic gesture.

In his response to the questionnaire, Jackson said this: "Lesbians and gays have long served effectively in all branches of the military. There is, therefore no reasonable basis for excluding them. Regarding the purging of lesbians and gays already serving in the military, I believe that such dismissals are not only unjust, but also wasteful. . . . That after 30 years of monitoring, our government cannot offer a single case in which homosexuality has been the

Bathhouse

Continued from page 1

cubicles.

Sal Accardi is the elected spokesperson for the Northern California Bathhouse Owners Association: "The fact of the matter is that sexual activity does go on at the baths. If [it is] not permitted to go on at the baths, in all likelihood the institution of baths as we know it today would not survive. While I have always been in the forefront of trying to implement changes that encourage safe sexual activity, that is quite different from taking the position of prohibiting sexual activity. I won't do that and the Association won't stand for it."

Accardi notes that his Water Gardens Bathhouse in San Jose is being used as the site of a film made by the State of California

about a model gay bathhouse where social rather than strictly sexual activity is encouraged. Accardi said that attorneys for the bathhouse owners are studying the various civil liberties issues that are raised by a complete ban on sexual activity at the baths.

Silverman indicated that the Public Health Department would treat the regulations on sexual activity at the baths in the same way they currently deal with restaurants on the safety and sanitary conditions of their kitchen facilities. Silverman asserted that health department inspectors would not act like sexual policemen; that patrons would not be arrested for having sex; that the only penalty would be the lifting of a license of the establishment where the sexual activity was taking place. He likened it to the enforcement of laws forbidding the



Women's Cultural Night.

Marilyn Humphries

Concerts in the Spirit

By Loie Hayes

Boston was recently treated to two evenings of exciting performances by local women emphasizing the diversity and overlapping influences of race and culture. Thanks are due to Women for Economic Justice for their production of the "Women's Cultural Night" and to the Poor People's Fund and the Women's Theological Center, who co-sponsored the second annual "Sisters in the Spirit" concert. Both events provided a very exciting interface among black, Asian, white and Latina women, in the audiences as well as among the performers.

I'm afraid that this review will be limited, on the one hand by my lack of musical sophistication and, more fundamentally, by my ignorance of the cultural heritage of much of the performers' works. I know it's much easier for me as a white, middle-class person to appreciate and critically analyze the songs of a visibly white, feminist choral group than it is for me to understand the choreography of a group of young black women from a neighborhood I have known only indirectly. When I hear a white jazz singer doing a Laura Nyro tune, I can relax into familiar memories of all the Nyro songs I've known for years. In contrast, listening to a Latina's marvelous scatting, I find myself comparing her voice with the only other Latina vocalist I've known, Flora Purim, the racism of my ears is obvious: "they" all sound the same to me.

Well, I'm trying to train myself to acknowledge my cultural

background without apologizing for it, so.... With those limitations aside, let me tell you about these concerts.

The Women's Cultural Night was certainly a community event for the women associated with Women for Economic Justice, their friends and families. A feeling of celebration buoyed the crowd and supported the performers through some unfortunately trying production problems.

The Dennison House Dance Group led off the program with an

formance may become the draw that finally gets me to make the trip from Somerville to Roxbury.

Black poet Malkea Reid followed The Dennison House dancers. Reid's voice was strong as she advocated being "seriously positive" within this "seriously negative" 1984 Amerikan culture in need of "serious attention to change." Reid's poems talked about growing up wanting to be "what the brothers wanted" and deciding now to be instead "what they need." Her identification as a woman was very clear, but her em-

Both events provided a very exciting interface among black, Asian, white and Latina women, in the audience as well as among the performers.

original Afro-American dance backed by an energetic conga rhythm. Their second piece blended gymnastics, cheerleading and jazz moves. Choreographed to the song, "I Am Woman," the young women endured a recording which started off slow and dragged slower and slower till it seemed to groan in agony. The audience tried to keep a beat going with hand clapping to show the women we loved them for their courage.

The dancers ranged in age from approximately 10 to 17 and though they didn't get much of an opportunity to demonstrate their skills, their home-choreography displayed fluidity and confidence. Some future Dennison House per-

phases on heterosexuality came up hard against my queer-positive values. Beyond that difference of perspectives, I loved her confident "I dig me, I love me ... doubts do not know me."

Libana took the stage after Reid. With five years experience behind them, this group's concerts are almost invariably crisp, joyous and powerful. Focussing on European and Middle Eastern songs performed in their original languages, Libana's many-layered harmonies are sometimes eerie, sometimes hypnotic and often explosive. Many of the songs were originally created as groups of women worked at communal

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Sisters in the Spirit.

Ellen Shub

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In Boston, the hepatitis B screening and vaccine is available from the Fenway Community Health Center, which maintains a fund to provide grants and loans to those who cannot afford the vaccine. For more information, or to make a contribution to the fund, call the Fenway Community Health Center at (617) 267-7573.

NEW SONG RENEWED: New Feminism, New Gay Awareness

By Maida Tilchen

Although I usually write about women's music for GCN, in the last few months I have heard music by progressive straight men that I found so significant to my politics and so supportive of the lesbian and gay movement that I decided I would like to write about it.

The "New Song" Movement

I have heard the phrase "New Song" many times in the last few years and have often wondered exactly what it referred to. Most often it has been mentioned in connection with Victor Jara, the Chilean musician who was executed for his art in 1973, soon after the coup. Also, several women's music albums contain the beautiful song "Gracias a la Vida" by Violeta Parra, identifying this song writer as part of the mysterious "New Song" movement. Finally, this past January 28, I got to the root of the mystery at an outstanding workshop held during the People's Music Network Winter Gathering in Boston, a regional conference for people involved in political music.

The workshop on "New Song" or "Nueva Canción" was given by Gil Raldiris, Roy Brown Ramirez, Jorge Arce, Pache Cruz and Donna Light. All but Donna are Puerto Ricans who now live in the New England area.

Gil Raldiris summed up "New Song" by saying it combines musical currents from all over Latin America. Because Latin America is multi-racial, including many ethnic groups, there are a variety of musical influences, including African, Indian and European. North American protest music, such as that by Joan Baez, Pete Seeger and Holly Near, is also credited as an influence on the New Song movement.

New Song is described as a way music is used as a newspaper or storyteller, receiving information from the people and spreading it among them. As New Songs travel, new verses are added. One example was the rollicking and highly sarcastic song "Once Upon A Time," which has been changed and expanded by the many artists who have performed it since it was originated by an unknown songwriter:

It could only happen, once upon a time
when I saw the world, mirrored in my dreams.

Once upon a time, a nice and friendly wolf
was eaten up by all the nasty sheep.

Once upon a time, the hero was a crook
the witch was very kind, and the villain was a
good guy.

Once upon a time, a nice and gentle CIA
was flatly cheated by a Latin American country.

Once upon a time, a bad man named Allende
was killed by honest Nixon.

Once upon a time, a benevolent employer
was exploited by all the lazy workers.

The performance of this song shows a clever way of obeying the word if not the spirit of censorship. Its message is all in the way it is sung, as a bouncy jug-band tune with lots of funny sound effects.

Roy Brown, who also did some powerful solos of his own plaintive songs, gave a somewhat academic explanation of New Song:

New Song is a phenomenon of a generation of musicians who have acquired the consciousness that culture is an incredible instrument for expressing a prohibited vision of Latin America. ... Moving perhaps at the pace of a turtle, New Song has presented the idea that Latin America is a motherland, and it has served to unite different countries that have traditionally been separated from each other.... The proof of this is that while there are so many dictatorships, while the frontier is heavily guarded, when you see a performance by a group of people who identify themselves as New Song songwriters, you will hear them doing the music of many cultures.... The strength of the music is not in its purity, but in its ability to acquire other expressions, yet still maintain its own personality.

Ironically, the fuel for the New Song movement has been the repressive governments of South America, which have sent so many thousands of people into exile in recent years. The musicians who have been forced to emigrate have spread the New Songs wherever they have travelled. The movement has encouraged translations of the songs so that more people will be able to appreciate them.

It is important to remember that the United States has been built very much on the work of Latin American immigrants for a long time, particularly Mexicans and Puerto Ricans. By recognizing that these groups have always been part of the fabric of United States culture, New Song can be seen not as something foreign that has been brought here, but as a stage in our cultural development.

The themes dealt with in New Song include the history of Latin American peoples and the problems of immigration. "Island of Love" tells about Puerto Rico's history through the history of the various groups of people who have lived there, including Indians, Africans and Spaniards, and the unity of these people through their work and art. Another song, based on a poem called "Puerto Rican Obituary," tells of the friendship of a black man and a white man who both immigrate to New York. Although they were so close in their homeland, in the US their friendship deteriorates because of the faster assimilation of the white man and the racist pressures. As Gil Raldiris pointed out, however, this is not always the case.

Compared to the self-confessional singer/songwriter style which characterizes United States contemporary folk music, "New Song" has a less personal style. The songwriter uses fewer words, and doesn't sing so much of him/herself. The writers tell of the

homelands that they love, and the people of which they feel a part. It is non-rhetorical, and in some sense, non-topical; every song I heard could have described a situation somewhere, everywhere and anywhere in the history of humanity. I felt very plugged into something much more universal than the type of music to which I usually listen.

The focus on homeland is one way this music differs from women's music. Women's music often tries to express the universal by referring to a transcendent level, using images like goddess, moon or abstract spirits of the earth. The only women's music song that reminds me of New Song is Maxine Feldman's "Amazon Women Rise," with its longing for a homeland that was once ours and to which we, lesbians as a people, hope someday to return and freely inhabit.

In a phone interview, I asked Gil Raldiris if he was aware of any involvement by feminist or lesbian or gay male songwriters in the New Song movement. He told me that he knows of no specifically identified lesbian or gay songwriters, but he has known gay musicians playing in New Song groups.

Gil feels that at this point the content of New Song is lagging behind the politics of the movement, but he feels assured that the New Song movement respects individual differences. "New Song is about what happens to human beings.... We all join and become a community — gay or straight or whatever — and share the songs in terms of human nature and the right of people to be whoever they are. When connected to politics as New Song is, everyone is affected. We're all living under the same sun and same conditions. We're joined by many ties."

Gil told me about several women artists connected to the New Song movement who he feels stress feminist or women's themes. Zoraida Santiago of Puerto Rico has sung on Roy Brown's albums and recently released her own album, "La Luna." Sara González of Cuba has made many albums. From Argentina, there is Mercedes Sosa. Isabel Parra, the daughter of Violeta Parra, is a musician now living in Mexico. Lucérita Benítez is a well-known Puerto Rican singer who includes New Songs in her shows. She attempts to bring politics to the mass media, and stresses a natural appearance in contrast to the Anglicization favored by many Latin American performers.

The workshop brought together several men who have been instrumental in the development of New Song. They have a beautiful way of playing music together, with a visible spirit of cooperation and not competition as in so many men's rock groups. Their love for each other and their pride in what they are doing absolutely radiated from the stage. Some of the men have been working together for as long as 14 years. I loved the image of their growing older together with their music and their visions of a better world.

There is an International New Song Committee founded in Cuba in 1982, and composed of representatives from 12 nations. The purpose of the committee is



to organize and maintain the New Song movement. The US has been represented on this committee by Gisele Mills, a black woman, and by Pete Seeger. The US National Committee is currently trying to establish an office and develop ways to network with existing progressive cultural groups.

Locally, records are sold at Redbook Store in Jamaica Plain and occasionally at related events. The only address I was able to obtain was Coqui Co-op, 1616 Yale Station, New Haven, CT 06520, (203) 624-7759. They offer information, records, tapes, catalogues, workshops and concerts.

Gil Raldiris is now singing with the Rainbow Coalition band, based in Boston. Their next scheduled appearance will be at the May 5 benefit for Mobilization for Survival.

Willie Sordill

Willie Sordill has been one of the pioneers of feminist men's music, going back to the Folkways album of a few years ago, "Walls to Roses: Songs of Changing Men," made by a group of gay and straight male feminists. Since then he has made two solo albums, "Please Tip Your Waitress" in 1981, and his new album "Silent Highways." Most recently, this past winter he assembled an unusual band that includes straight, gay and lesbian musicians called "The Willie Sordill Group." They have done only two performances, both of which I was fortunate to attend. What I saw has

it's how you use it —
God help me, God damn you —
minding my own business.
Go mind yours!
leave me alone!
I may be scared,
but I'm not ashamed
You'll frighten,
but you'll never change me
Feel my rage,
but you can't take my pride...

© Willie Sordill

Unfortunately, neither of these songs was written in time to be on Willie's new album "Silent Highways," but the album has many fine songs by Willie which the new group has been performing. Dennis Pearne, George Fulginiti-Shakar and Susan Abod from "The Willie Sordill Group" all perform on the album. (Buffy Berg and Rita Toll have played with the group as percussionists, but are not on the record.) The album includes a lovely instrumental called "Primary Emotional Commitment," which has been getting a lot of airplay on the local folk music radio shows. My favorite song on the album is "More than Brothers," a lovely piece reminiscent of Don McLean's "Vincent." It is a tribute to two jazz musicians whose work inspired Willie. The song focusses on the interplay of their talents:

For more than thirty years in the curve
of the piano
Sending soaring tones of love,

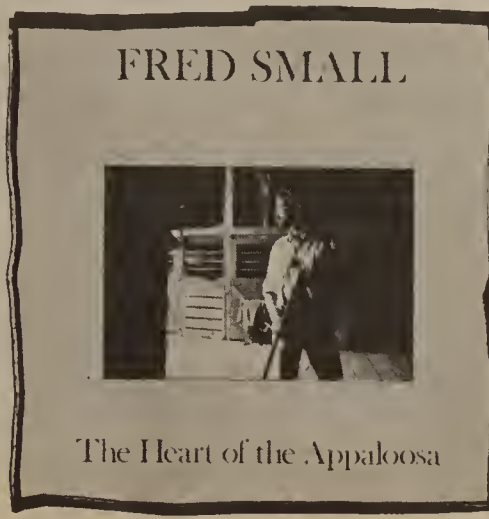
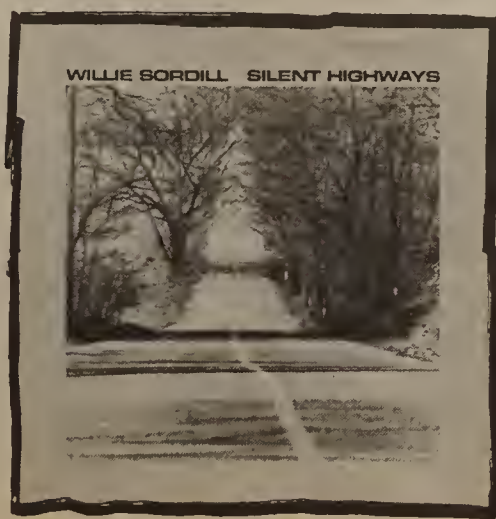
Lay some boards on top of you,
and sprinkle dirt around
You won't have to be dead,
if you only plan ahead
You'll be glad you kept
a shovel on hand!
© Pine Barrens Music

Although Fred's album covers many serious topical issues, there is also a delightful children's song called "Larry the Polar Bear," about a performing bear who answers the call of the wild when he's taken to Alaska to appear in a movie.

Charlie King

After hearing the beautiful rendition of his song "Two Good Arms" on the *Lifeline* album by Holly Near and Ronnie Gilbert, I was very eager to hear more of Charlie King's songs. Charlie has two records on the Rainbow Snake label. On both he is accompanied by Bright Morning Star, a group that includes George Fulginiti-Shakar and Marcia Taylor (who has a solo album out called *Tinder*, which I reviewed for GCN recently).

I enjoyed both of Charlie's albums, but especially liked the monolog and song "Vaguely Reminiscent of the Sixties" on the album of the same name. As the monolog explains, "Since the '60s ended abruptly on January 1, 1970, everyone, protestors, police and all,



given me a sort of "changed consciousness" about the role of men in women's music and the role of women in progressive music. Seeing that "rainbow" of a band, working together with so much energy and a sense of solidarity and "sharing the load" of each other's issues, I felt I was at the birth of a new era of music, one that brings together many strains of alternative music of the past 20 years. Women, straight, progressives, gay men, lesbians, Jewish, Christian and feminist men are all included. Although the group is all white, there are strong musical influences from many cultures, particularly reggae.

At a concert by this group at Ryles Bar in Cambridge in December, the song "Half of the Sky" was performed. Done in a jaunty calypso style it tells of the problems of straight feminist relationships:

So women beware the liberated man
the wolf wear the wool of the sheep
...watch out for the man who say
he's not perfect
the way he know the perfect man do
whenever he wrong, you will have to
pay twice
when he tell all of his faults to you.

© Willie Sordill

Willie's song "While Walking," which describes a man's fears when he encounters potential queerbeaters, was very effectively sung by George Fulginiti-Shakar at the Ryles show. In introducing the song, George said, "I was really moved by it, not only because Willie wrote it, but because it was almost as if I had written it, it spoke so clearly of my life experiences as a gay man growing up, especially around other boys." The song's lyrics go:

Yesterday returning home, not two
doors from his house
a gang of boys possessed the sidewalk
between him and home.
Less than half his age,
could be in junior high school
alone they'd look away, but they
felt bold, there were five of them.
And as he tried to pass by,
they turned and glared at him.
"Faggot" was the name they threw
like knives stuck in
... feeling like an animal in a cage,
he wondered why being different
caused such rage.
... It's not that word,

warming as they glistened
His friend just breaths away,
in complementing interplay...
more than friends
lovers, yet not lovers
In perfect counterpoint
Even more than brothers...

© 1983 Folkstream Music

Fred Small

Fred Small and Charlie King are two other straight men who are clearly expressing support for lesbian and gay people in their music. Fred's new album *The Heart of the Appaloosa* includes the song "Annie" about a lesbian teacher whose co-workers are concerned that she isn't married:

Mondays come questions of couples
Where and with whom did you go?
Avoiding the personal pronoun
She hopes it doesn't show
Shopping with her lover in the city
Two women holding hands
don't get a stare
If the kids at school knew what they do
Would they hate her?
Why should they care?

© Fred Small

Also on this album is a very nice revival of the old talking-blues style, this time used to tell the "Talking Wheelchair Blues." It's about a jogger who encounters a woman in a wheelchair:

And she looks at me real steady
And she says, "You want to drag?"
So she starts to roll and I start to run
And she beat the pants off
my aching buns
You know going uphill
I'd hit my stride
But coming down she'd sail on by!

"Dig a Hole in the Ground or How to Prosper During the Coming Nuclear War" is one of the most effective anti-nuke songs that I have heard in the '80s. Fred's song is based on those absurd plans for surviving nuclear war that the government has been issuing:

Dig a hole in the ground,
climb right on down

fell to the ground in a 'full lotus.' " Since then, the media has had to find a way to explain the protest actions and movements that have occurred even though the '60s ended. "The media would try to exorcise these evil demons from the past by using a magical metaphor saying that these coalitions and events were 'vaguely reminiscent of the '60s.'" The monolog and song detail the many political gains for feminists, lesbians and gay men, older people and labor since 1970. The song is an excellent parody of the Bob Dylan of "Freewheelin'," complete with wheezing harmonica and brassy acoustic guitar, and such verses as:

The gays were taking over
the streets of San Francisco
Why the hell don't they stay home
and patronize their local disco
It's all so vaguely reminiscent
of the sixties.

© 1981 Pied Asp Music

Charlie King has also written a song about gay rights called "Thank You, Anita" on his *Somebody's Story* Album:

I am the gay one,
afraid of the straight one
I kept my head down
and thought I'd get by
But you and your cause
it pushed me from the closet
Now I pick up my head and sing
to the sky, "Thank you Anita..."

© 1979 Charlie King

Although the song is rather dated at this point, I was pleased to see that Charlie King has been openly supportive of gay rights for so long.

I found it interesting that all of these straight songwriters — Willie Sordill, Fred Small and Charlie King — picked the theme of gays as victims to write about, although they do picture their characters as resisting victimization. It has me wondering what other gay themes a straight writer could handle. And, beyond this instance, what themes can a white writer use in writing supportively of people of color, or an able-bodied person in writing about the disabled, or an adult in writing about children? I tend to think the most likely

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Calendar weekly events sunday

Boston, MA — Boston Alliance of Gay and Lesbian Youth (BAGLY) drop-in center for youth 22 and under from 3:30-5pm at Evangelist Church, 35 Bowdoin St. (Beacon Hill) Info: 497-8282. Please send all BAGLY mail to GCN, Box 10GY, 167 Tremont St., Boston 02111. See Wed. listings for rap meeting.

Boston, MA — A support group including deaf and differently abled women. Free brunch. Captioned movies, entertainment and interpreters. Every third Sunday at Somewhere Else, 295 Franklin St. Info: (617) 423-7730.

Cambridge, MA — Gay Volleyball. 6:30 to 7:30PM, warm-up and drills. 7:30 to 9:30PM play. Various levels. Info/location: Jay 262-4896 or Harry 536-4540.

Burlington, VT — Gay Volleyball. 5:30 to 7:30PM. Info: (802) 482-3528 or (802) 862-4019.

Boston, MA — "Musically speaking." Women's music, ideas, announcements. WMBR, 88.1 FM, 1-3pm.

Boston, MA — Gay and Lesbian Physicians of New England. 2nd Sundays, 2pm. Info: (617) 482-6874 or 247-5495.

Boston — "Boston's Other Voice." WROR, 98.5 FM, 11:30pm.

West of Boston, MA — West of Boston Lesbians. Social events on Sunday afternoons, twice a month. New members welcome. Info: Amy 486-8848 or Dorothy 875-1108.

Cambridge, MA — Black and White Men Together of Boston. 2nd Sunday of each month. Info: Tom 536-3392 or Dick 247-3043.

Cambridge, MA — Overeaters Anonymous, lesbian meeting, Old Cambridge Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. (Harvard Sq.) 7:30pm. DOB office.

Orleans, MA — Shoreline, a social group alternative to the bars on Cape Cod, meets 2nd Sundays. Info: Box 1614, Orleans 02653.

Concord, NH — Concord Area Gay Youth. Support group for youth 16-22. Rap session and social time. Info: Ron 225-5622.

Keene, NH — Potlucks and other fun get-togethers for lesbians. 1st Sundays (2pm) and 3rd Tuesdays or Wednesdays (6pm). Info: Keene Klondykes, Box 261, Gilsum 03448.

Central VT — Central Vermont Gay Men (CVGM) meets 1st Sunday of the month for socializing, business and a meal. Info: Box 42, Barre 05641.

Northern VT/NH — League of Gays (LOGS) meets 3rd Sundays. Info: (802) 626-3618 or write: Box 703, St. Johnsbury 05819.

Orono, ME — Wilde-Stern Club. Social/support group for lesbians and gay men. Informal, friendly and open meetings. Peabody Lounge, 3rd fl., Memorial Union, UMO, 7pm.

Augusta, ME — Interweave, a support/social/political group for gay men and lesbians. Meets last Sundays of the month. Potluck 6:30PM, program follows. All Souls Unitarian, 11 King St.

Bennington, VT — Lesbian/Gay Christians meet for interdenominational bible study, prayer and discussion. Info: 588-6564.

Gardner, MA — New Direction. St. Michael's Outreach Service, 10AM. Office hours 7-9AM and 4-10PM. Info: (617) 536-7005.

Aroostook County, ME — Northern Lambda Nord, Northern Maine and New Brunswick support group, holds business meeting and potluck on the last Sun. each month. Info: NLN, Box 990, Caribou 04736. Gay PhoneLine: (207) 896-5888.

Boston, MA — The Metropolitan Community Church of Boston, with a special ministry to the lesbian and gay community, meets at 7pm in the Old West Church, 131 Cambridge St. Info: 523-7664.

New Haven, CT — Gay Fathers of New Haven meets biweekly on Sundays at 7pm. Info: PO Box 5041, New Haven CT 06520.

monday

Waltham, MA — Triskelion, the Brandeis Gay/Lesbian Coalition. General discussion group at 9pm. Usdan Student Ctr., Cont. Room C. Info: 647-4353 or Box 2792, Brandeis U., Waltham 02254.

Nashua, NH — Nashua Area Gays meet at 8pm. Info: Tony 424-3252, or write: Nashua Area Gays, Box 3472, Nashua 03061.

Portsmouth, NH — Seacoast Gay Men. 7pm. Info: PO Box 1394, Portsmouth 03801.

Storrs, CT — Eastern Conn. Christian Gay/Lesbian Concerned meets at Waggoner Chapel of Storrs Cong. Church on UConn campus. Info: 742-3030 and 872-6531. Meets 2nd and 4th Mons. at 7pm.

tuesday

Boston, MA — Urania, lesbian and bisexual women's S/M support group. Safe, non-competitive space for women of all levels of experience to share political and personal aspects of our sexuality. 131 Cambridge St. (Govt. Ctr.) 7:30pm. Info: Hathor 623-7258.

Cambridge, MA — Daughters of Bilitis. Discussion and social group. Old Cambridge Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. (Harvard Sq.) 8pm. Tuesdays and Thursdays. Info: 661-3633.

Cambridge, MA — Lesbian S/M support group every week. 7:30pm. Info: 776-7957. Open to lesbians supportive of or in to S/M.

Cambridge, MA — Boston chapter. Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays meets 1st Tuesday of the month at First Parish Unitarian Church, 630 Mass Ave., Arlington Ctr.

Pittsfield, MA — Berkshire County Gay Coalition meets 2nd and 4th Tuesdays. Info: (413) 442-7772.

Brattleboro, VT — Southern Vermont Lesbian and Gay Men's Coalition meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at the Common Ground Restaurant, 25 E. Lot St. 7:30pm.

Manchester, NH — Manchester Men's Group. Weekly support group for gay and bisexual men. 7:30pm for coffee and discussion. Info: Jack 669-0096.

Portland, ME — Gay/Lesbian Alcoholics Anonymous meeting at First Parish Unitarian, 425 Congress St. 8pm. Open to all.

Hartford, CT — Greater Hartford Lesbian and Gay Task Force meets at Hill Ctr., 350 Farmington Ave. 7pm. 1st Tuesdays. Info: 243-7691.

New London, CT — New London People's Forum. Support group for gay men and lesbians. Info: 536-3095. 14:30pm.

Boston, MA — Nat. Ass. of Social Workers. Gay and Lesbian Task Force meets 1st Mon. at 8PM. Info: Lorrie 436-7521 or Carrie 482-0557.

Cambridge, MA — Lesbian coming out discussion group. 2nd Mon. 8PM. All women welcome. Daughters of Bilitis, 1151 Mass Ave. Info: 661-3663.

Portsmouth, NH — STO Clinic for men and women of all sexual orientations. NH Feminist Ctr., 232 Court St. (603) 436-7588. \$15 basic fee.

wednesday

Boston, MA — Boston Alliance of Gay and Lesbian Youth (BAGLY). New persons meeting 6:30pm, general meeting and group discussion 7-9pm. For youth 22 and under. Evangelist Church, 35 Bowdoin St. (Beacon Hill) Info: 497-8282.

Boston, MA — Boston Gay Men's Chorus meets every week from 7-10pm at the YWCA, 140 Clarendon St. (Copley Sq.) Info: 522-6983.

Boston, MA — Fathers in Transition, a group of gay/bi fathers meeting for friendship and support. Info: Exodus Ctr. 266-0612, or write: Fathers in Transition, c/o GCN, Box 6, 167 Tremont St., Boston 02111.

Boston, MA — Lesbian and Gay Media Advocates (LAGMA). 7:30-9:30pm. New members welcome. Help make the media more responsive to our needs. Info: LAGMA, c/o GCN, 167 Tremont St. Boston 02111.

Boston, MA — Lunchtime for lesbians. Isolated during the workday, downtown? Interested in a lunchtime hangout/discussion group? Come to 600 Washington St. room 219. Noon. Info: 542-5188.

Boston — Medical Area Dykes meets for lunch. Noon to 1. Kresge Cafeteria, Harvard School of Public Health. Info: Katy 732-1090 ext. 41.

Cambridge — Lesbian and Gay Associated Engineers and Scientists (LAGAES). Info: 288-3228.

Boston — Project Place orientation. Every Wed. 6:30pm, 32 Rutland Place (So End). Info: 262-3740.

Boston — Lunchtime for Lesbians Hangout/discussion group. Come to 600 Washington St. Rm 219. Noon. Info: 542-5188.

Cambridge, MA — Boston National Organization for Women (NOW). Lesbian Rights Task Force meets 4th Wednesdays at 99 Bishop Allen Dr. (Central Sq.) Plan lobbying, public education and consciousness raising. Info: 661-6015.

Cambridge, MA — Daughters of Bilitis 35+ women's discussion and social group. 7:30pm. Old Cambridge Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. (Harvard Sq.) 8pm. 2nd Wednesday and last Friday of each month.

Bridgewater, MA — South Shore Gay and Lesbian Alliance. Info: 584-4997.

Hampden County, MA — Social/support group for lesbians. 8pm. Info: Debbie 532-5878 or Julie 532-4959.

Hyannis, MA — Lesbian Support Group meets 1st Wednesday of every month. 7:30pm. New members welcome. Orientation, social meetings. Warren Women's Center, 298 Main St. Info: 771-6739.

Nashua, NH — Greater Nashua Area of NH Lambda sponsors speakers and/or raps on 2nd Wednesdays and 4th Thursdays. 7:30pm. Business meets on 1st Saturdays. Info: (603) 889-1416.

Hartford, CT — Lesbian AA meeting. Hill Ctr., 350 Farmington Ave. 8pm. Info: 247-8797.

thursday

Cambridge, MA — Lesbian Liberation, an open discussion group. 8-10pm. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. (Central Sq.) Info: 354-8807.

Cambridge, MA — Lesbians with children. Support group. 8-10pm. Cambridge Women's Ctr., 46 Pleasant St. (Central Sq.) Info: 354-8807.

Cambridge — Younger Lesbian Support Group. All women 22 and under welcome. 4th Thurs. Daughters of Bilitis, 1151 Mass Ave. Info: 661-3663.

Allston — Local group forming to discuss issues of feminism and non-violence. Meets 1st and 3rd Thurs., Allston Brighton Women for Peace and Justice. Info: 254-2272.

Northampton, MA — Pioneer Valley People's Gay Alliance meets 1st and 3rd Thursdays at the Unitarian Society, 220 Main St. 7:30pm. Info: (413) 584-7903 or write: PO Box 181, Northampton 01061.

Hartford, CT — Gay Al-Anon meeting for lesbians and gay men at Trinity Church Parish House, Farmington Ave. 7:30pm. Info: 247-8797.

friday

Boston, MA — *Gay Community News* (that's us) always needs help sending out the paper on Friday evenings. Come by for a few hours to 167 Tremont St., 5th fl., (on the Common, near Boylston T stop) anytime after 6pm and lend a hand. Refreshments and good times! Every body well come! Info: 426-4469. Thanks!

Cambridge, MA — Amazon Lesbian Al-Anon. Mt. Auburn Hosp. Living Rm., Clark Bldg. 8-9:30pm. Newcomers meeting from 7-8pm on the 1st Friday.

Pittsfield, MA — Weekly meetings of Lesbian United. Info: Women's Services Ctr. 499-2425.

Concord, NH — Concord Men's Group meets at 7:30pm for coffee and discussion. Info: Herb 485-5612.

Danbury, CT — Gay and Lesbian Alliance of Greater Danbury meets 7:30-10pm in the Green Room at First Congregational Church, corner of Deer Hill Ave. and West St.

Hartford, CT — Your Turf, a weekly drop-in center for lesbian and gay teenagers. 7-9pm at the Hill Ctr., 350 Farmington Ave. upstairs. Sponsored by the Coalition of Sexual Minorities.

Portland, ME — Gay People's Alliance group. 7-9pm. Student Union Bldg., 92 Bedford St. Info: 780-4085.

saturday

Boston, MA — Chiltern Mountain Club. Regularly scheduled sports and outdoors events. General info: John 275-1336. Linda 734-4066. John 864-0823. Volleyball: Jay 262-4896. Basketball: Kieran 232-7229.

Boston, MA — Front Runners/Boston Gay men and lesbian running club. Info: 39 Milford. Boston 02118 or 451-6364.

Providence, RI — Rhode Island Gay and Lesbian Youth meets every week from 1-5pm. For youth 14-21. Info: MCC 272-9247 or Gay Help Line 751-3322 (eves).

Bangor, ME — Interweave, a support group for gay men and lesbians. Meets 3rd Sat. Potluck at 6pm followed by program. Unitarian Church, Main St.

Burlington, VT — Integrity (Gay Episcopalians and their friends) meets 1st and 3rd Sat. St. Paul's Cathedral. 7:55pm. Info: Bruce 664-7198.

Burlington, VT — Vermonters for Lesbian & Gay Rights meets at Pearl's Restaurant (upstairs). 1st and 3rd Sat. 6-7:30. Info: VLGR, Box 126, Burlington 05402.

'There's Always Cost': Ferron's Boston Concert

By Pam Gordon

When Ferron sang, she was great. Unfortunately, during the first set of her two-set show, she did a lot of talking — to the point where I wondered if I'd hear more than three songs all night. However, all this talking somehow set the mood for classics like "Almost Kissed" and "Who Loses."

Preceding "Who Loses," for example, Ferron told a story about sitting, crying, on a curbstone at

more noticeable. Chronicling the pain of life, Ferron sang ballads such as the new song, "Snowin' in Brooklyn," telling us that despite all one's efforts one would, at various times, be lonely again in life. From *Testimony*, she sang "Ain't Life a Brook" and "Misty Mountain." In "Ain't Life a Brook," she tells how just when she's feeling good, her lover hurts her:

I get to thinkin our love is a polished stone ...

Sanders Theater became alive as Ferron's music uplifted us and took us out of ourselves and our own lives.

age 18 without money and without a place to live. Woven into this background, lines such as "please me now" and "take everything, but don't take my time" had great resonance: in those circumstances she needed to be pleased "now" and time was all she had of value to hold onto. (The line "There's gold for the findin', well it's passin me by" makes sense too!)

Ferron, the Canadian lesbian feminist singer-songwriter, is one of the rages of women's music. She sings songs to and about women, with themes such as struggling through life's pain, her lovers and travelling physically and emotionally. Ferron's gruff but musically smooth voice, tinged with her Vancouver accent, creates a magical women's space that unifies the audience. Sanders Theatre became alive as Ferron's music uplifted us and took us out of ourselves and our own lives.

Ferron began the concert by telling us how she got her start in music and then pulling a surprising but pleasing trick: she asked the audience to sing along with her first song so we'd know how it felt to be nervous upon beginning the concert. Thus establishing empathy and rapport with the audience, a personable and energetic Ferron began her two-hour musical and emotional domination of those present. But it was a tender and gentle domination. A gentle woman, Ferron talked, cajoled, joked, laughed easily and sang.

And sang! In person, her music sounded better than on album, the variations and moods in her voice

You give me a long drawn look
I know pretty soon you're
gonna leave our home
And of course I mind
Especially when I'm thinkin'
from my heart
That life don't clickety-click
on a straight line track
It come together and it
come apart.

Ferron's world is sad, difficult and painful. In it, life is not easy, is rarely smooth, and "some lovin' is torture," as she sings in "Who Loses." Even success has its own pain. In "Our Purpose Here," dedicated to manager-partner Gayle Scott, Ferron sings about becoming a musical success and travelling to concerts, thus being alone and lonely in strange towns. As the lyrics state, "there's always cost."

"Shadows on a Dime," the title cut of her new album, is another song about travelling. In this song Ferron is on a train to New York City from Vancouver and is sitting backwards facing the rest of the passengers. Looking out the window to ease the gaze of everyone upon her, she again feels the sad side of success:

I poured my soul in Santa Cruz
I ached all night ...
It's so optional what you may
or may not lose
In this pattern we call time.

In the second set, Ferron talked much less, singing mostly new songs. She ended with an 8½-minute cut intitled "It Won't Take Long," a great visionary revolutionary song about the

whole world rejecting present governments and materialism, uniting to live a humane life beneficial to all:

We are children in the rafters,
we are
babies in the park
We are women grown together,
we are
men who easily cry, ...
We are dreamers in the making.

Ferron's music is positive, asserting such feminist values as women's needs and how women relate ecologically to life. While Jackson Browne, for example, sings "Say It Isn't True," pointing out the horrors of our modern nuclear age without even hinting that meaningful action is possible, Ferron describes a beautiful resolution in "It Won't Take Long." We know the horrors; what we don't know is how to change and to live differently. This is what a woman, a feminist like Ferron, can teach through her music.

So despite too much talk, Ferron's spirit and music triumphed. Once again Boston women were given, in the words of "Testimony," the gift of themselves: "by our light be we spirit/by our heart be we women/... by our hand be we whole."

Patty Larkin, a Somerville-based singer/songwriter, opened the concert. She was a humorous woman, singing, for example, about her Dodge Dart or about punching a man who told her her singing was "not bad for a broad." However, the songs lacked variety musically and her voice lacked range and was a trifle flat. Larkin sounded best on the three ballads she did, especially the travelling song "On the Run" about leaving her home town. Yet even the ballads had a fast tempo similar to her more jaunty songs.

All the elements necessary for success — voice, music, humor, rapport with the audience — seem to be present in Patty, but not yet integrated into a rolling smoothness. However, the audience did enjoy her songs.

But when Ferron finally did sing (and stopped talking), her mastery and professionalism, her musical soul, were even more evident.

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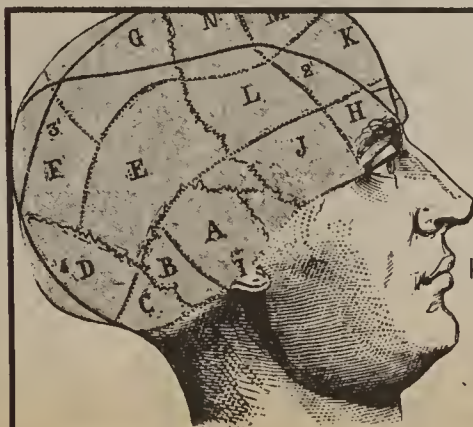
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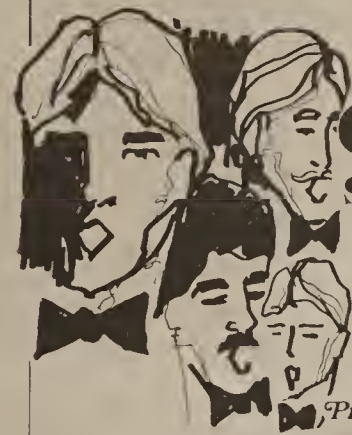
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Concerts

Continued from page 7

chores — processing fabric, preparing food, planting in the fields. Libana provided the only recognizable lesbian presence of the evening with one song from the Jewish tradition which was affectionately introduced with this translation of the lyrics: "Oh most beautiful woman, reach out to me, embrace me again and again." The accompanying dance, choreographed by one of the Libana women, featured four couples, matched in height, swirling, transfixed with eye-to-eye, woman-to-woman passionate concentration.

Aiko Furumoto, a native of Hawaii, read three poems to begin the second half of the program. Dedicated to the Committee for Reparations to the Asian-Americans interned during the Second World War, Furumoto's first poem spoke of the land of "opportunity and exclusion." She brought a sense of hope and powerful love into her portrait of the prison camp in the American Southwest, where "the corners of the world touched" and recipes were traded for sukiyaki and guacamole. She admonished us, as the children in the camp were ad-

monished, "Be proud the sky rests on your shoulders." This June when we celebrate Gay Pride, I'll remember feeling the straight shoulders of those Asian-Americans exiled to the desert of this free land.

Furumoto's second poem provided a dramatic shift from the open space feeling of the desert to the speedy rap of the urban streets. Written out of a sense of debt to the "revolutionary" drive of youth, its message was clear: change has got to happen, "get started tonight." The last poem of Furumoto's short set celebrated International Women's Day with the assertion that through the liberation of women all communities of humanity will be freed to "become all that we can be." It would be hard to imagine a fuller vision.

Singer Paula Elliot closed the evening's performances with a number of gospel, jazz and blues tunes. Elliot concentrated mostly on traditionals like "Motherless Child," "Nobody Knows You When You're Down and Out," "God Bless the Child," and "Wild Women Don't Get the Blues." Though Elliot seemed excited by the music, her band,

especially the piano, held back and didn't provide the variety and control needed to sustain a strong voice. We can look forward to more inspirational work as her performances gain the polish of time.

The emcee throughout the program, Linda Patten, deserves a special mention for her humor and confidence in easing us through the technical hold-ups and program rescheduling. This was the first year WEJ produced a concert fundraiser. WEJ is well-known in Boston as the decedent of the Women's Commission in Exile. Targeting issues of concern to low-income women and people of color — welfare rights, pay equity, child care, and economic education — WEJ has been successful in building a multi-racial poor women's activist organization. The most recent appointment of a senior policy advisor to the governor on women's issues is, in large part, attributable to WEJ. Hopefully WEJ will be able to produce an equally diverse and dynamic program next year.

The second annual "Sisters in the Spirit" concert is a testament

Continued page 17

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New Song

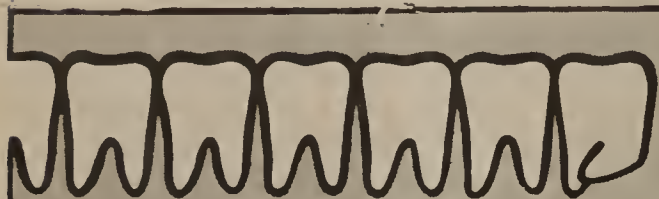
Continued from page 13

themes would be those of friendship and working together, and what can be learned from people other than ourselves, and how to deal with our societally-embedded prejudices. I think that the New Song movement may hold the key in the cultural merging of many cultures and peoples, for it expands the role of the artist into a disseminator of artistic culture, instead of the self-absorbed, individualistic style that characterizes North American songwriters.

At a workshop at the People's Music Network conference given by Giselle Mills, the music of Milton Nascimento, a Brazilian songwriter, was played. One of Nascimento's songs about a songwriter and the destiny of his work holds a vision of music that I would like to see come about in more music by feminist and progressive men and women:

I prepare a song
in which my mother recognizes
herself, all the mothers
recognize themselves, and which
speaks like two eyes...
My life, our lives
Form a single diamond
I learned new words
And transformed others
more beautiful.
I prepare a song
Which wakes men up
And puts children to sleep.

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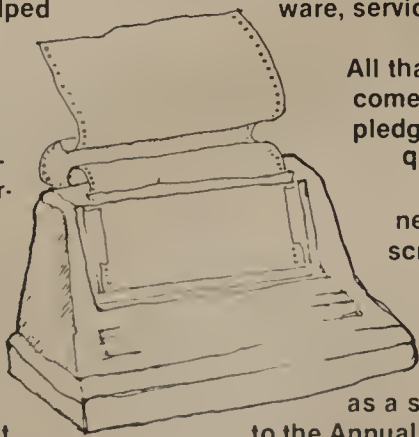
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Calendar section). Watch for a performance in your
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Rhode Island Students

Continued from page 3

passed a resolution supporting the
rights of gay workers and urging
the enactment of gay rights legisla-
tion at the federal, state and city
levels. Those working on the
resolution told GCN that it's ef-
fect would be to place the
resources and support of labor at
the disposal of activists working to
obtain employment rights for les-
bians and gay men.

McElroy was out of town and
unavailable for comment.

In discussing the Alliance's
future plans, Hines told GCN that
they are tightening up the bill's
wording and lining up support for
introduction at the next session.
"We learned the questions [the
legislators] ask and know what
issues need to be dealt with. We
need more people to describe their
own instances of discrimination
and we know we have to get the
unions behind us."

— filed from Boston

Continued from page 3

ment.
Key expressed the hope that the
momentum created by UFLAG's
determination to follow through
on Gay Awareness Week as
scheduled despite the zero-
funding of the event will
strengthen the group. Key noted
that one of the protests organized
to register campus opposition to
the UFLAG funding decision at-
tracted 60 people. He said, "We
got 3 or 4 active new members,
new people with energy. The
momentum will carry on. We're
proving that we can do things and
[we're] gaining confidence that we
can try things and get people to
show up."

— filed from Boston

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Ned Rorem on His Art

By Richard Knisely

Composer Ned Rorem appeared in Boston on April 3 and 4, featured as part of the Boston University "Encounter with Composers" series. He gave an informal talk on his music and answered questions on Tuesday afternoon, April 3. He then made an appearance on Wednesday evening at a special performance of his music at the BU Concert Hall. While in town he stopped in for an on-the-air chat with WGBH's indefatigable Robert J. Lurtsema.

Rorem, whose "Whitman Cantata" was given its world premiere performance last fall by the combined choruses at the First National Gay Men's Chorus Convention, for which it was commissioned, has distinguished himself as the only American composer of international fame who is outspokenly gay. His numerous published journals and his occasional articles in *Christopher Street* exhibit both his unflinching frankness and his willingness to be identified with a gay readership. He has never made a cause of being gay, however, preferring to let his living speak for itself, and those who attended his talk at BU hoping to hear an expose on the life of a gay composer were sorely disappointed.

He has tread a fine line to maintain the balance between his attention as a serious composer and his reputation as a writer with an eloquently gay point of view. He has been known to bristle when questioned in a public forum about this relationship between his life and word. His only passing reference to any issue of sexuality in his talk on Tuesday was to point out that "Art is not beyond sexuality, it is beyond sex."

In his work as a composer he has neither avoided the issue of sexuality nor made an issue of it. His choice of texts for his many hundreds of songs includes a large proportion of poems by Whitman, Auden, Goodman and many other

poets with a gay sensibility. His well known song cycle "Poems of Love and the Rain" involves a series of poems on the subject of love gained and lost with no effort to disguise the gender identity of the beloved. But Rorem does not choose texts because they are gay, but because they express a personal truth. "I set poems that, as we Quakers say, 'speak to my condition,'" he told his audience on Tuesday. And at Wednesday's concert he prefaced a performance of his "Was Scenes" with a disclaimer of political art. "Art that attempts to be political becomes propaganda," he claimed. Subsequently he explained that the Viet Nam war crisis prompted him, from his position as a Quaker and a pacifist, to compose the "War Scenes," a set of excerpts from the Civil War diaries of Walt Whitman composed for baritone and piano.

The performance of "War Scenes" was the highlight of the Wednesday concert. The five excerpts from Whitman's "Specimen Days" are set to music that skillfully underscores the graphic and grotesque imagery. In the second piece, "Specimen Case," a poignant and beautifully underplayed exchange of significant glances between the poet and a handsome, doomed young soldier is portrayed. Rorem referred obliquely to this piece when he said "the words are beyond sex." Certainly they are not beyond sexuality. The "War Scenes" can be compared to Picasso's *Guernica* as a powerful work of art that serves to denounce the inhumanity of war. Whether or not this reduces "War Scenes" to the status of propaganda Rorem did not care to relate.

Beyond his career as a "modern Romantic" composer, Rorem has built a reputation around a large ego and a penchant for making controversial — even contradictory — statements about art. Responding to a statement made

in *Time* magazine twenty years ago that he was "the best living composer of art songs," he said, "If I am the best, it is because I am the only one. There is no competition." He went on to explain that "art song" as such is so out of favor in this country that no one dares compose them. When asked by a student why people buy abstract art and read abstract poetry but do not listen to contemporary music, he appeared nettled and responded, "First of all, I do not know what you mean by 'people,' second there is no such thing as 'abstract art' — every painting represents something... and thirdly, no one cares about poetry so we might as well not discuss that at all." (Rorem, it should be said, is an ardent admirer of poetry. He has said that, could he write poetry, he might never have been a composer, and believes that poets are the only artists more ignored and neglected than composers.)

Perhaps the most entertaining moment in Rorem's visit to Boston was his interview with Robert J. Lurtsema. When Rorem claimed that a large number of American singers are either "dumb" or "illiterate," Robert J. muttered, "I'd better not pursue that." Later Rorem befuddled Robert J. by proclaiming himself a devout Quaker who "does not believe in God," explaining that his Quakerism lies in his devotion to humanity and that he "envies" those who are able to believe in God. Robert J. retaliated near the end of the program by playing a recording of surely the most puerile and ridiculous recording of a Rorem piece he could find, a piece composed for and played by a youth orchestra. "I'll bet you forgot you'd written that," he said. Rorem admitted he had, at which Lurtsema played the recording again. At a composer's seminar at BU later in the day, Rorem was quoted as saying in reference to Lurtsema: "What a pig."

Concerts

Continued from page 16

to the level of energy that's collectable under the umbrella of women, talent and cultural diversity. The "Sisters in the Spirit" program billed four of Boston's top vocalists, two drummers, a piano, bass and flute. The ensemble was directed by singer and composer Sememya McCord, one of the initiators of the "Sisters in the Spirit" concert last year. Staged in the high-vaulted Old South Church, the concert resonated with the confidence of seasoned performers and the passion of women loving beautiful work together.

The show touched on the range of jazz from blues to salsa and on to all the rest that's beyond classification. The vocalists all contributed a distinctly different energy in each of their separate numbers. McCord seemed to glow with calm, clear self-assurance and love. Wannetta Jackson, in constant motion, embodied the spunk and sensuality of women's jazz. Mili Bermejo contradicted her small frame and plain, black dress with a voice of vitality and color. At times she seemed to push her breath as if she were playing the mike as a wind instrument. Rebecca Parris planted her long legs firmly on the stage and poured out lyrics with power and finesse. When she said, "see, girls are cool," we could see she was glad to be a part of it all.

Debbie Ahn, on piano, provided some mesmerizing back-up and many fiery, on-target solos. Flautist and composer Jamie Baum offered two handsome instrumentals and added a fine windy touch to the company's combo. A lot of couples were moved to special hugging of each other during her original, romantic piece in

the second half of the program. Terri Lyne Carrington is a powerful drummer, though at times her rhythms seemed to overwhelm and intrude, rather than complement and inspire. Claire Arenios, who took over the sticks for the second set, contributed a steady beat with very smooth breaks into the spotlight. Judy Lee surprised me with subtleties I hadn't expected from an electric bass. It would have been a treat to hear more solo riffs from her corner of the stage.

This show was definitely about women "hanging in, hanging out, and hanging on" as Kip Tiernan, co-director of PPF, said during her introduction. The lyrics ran the gamut of women's experience from Billie Holliday's "Good Morning Heartache" to the McDonald/Ingram pop spiritual "Yah Mo B There" to a latin love song, "Courage" and back to Laura Nyro's bluesy "Lonely Women." Sememya McCord's two originals gave an overview to the tone of this women's concert. "Mama's Lullaby" shared the growth of McCord's appreciation for her mother and a prayer that her infant son might someday "sing this mother song with me"; a blending of the strong herstory of women's survival with the hope that men of the future will learn to praise their own capacity for nurturance. McCord dedicated the closing song, "You Mean A Lot to Me," to the crowd and to the spirit of sisterhood in the house that night. With the lyrics "Come look in my eyes, tell me what you see, I'm grateful... you're a friend of mine," McCord sang what could be an anthem to the independent loving friendships that seem one of the most precious, if rare, accomplishments of the lesbian-feminist movement (besides all the hot sex and passionate politics, of

course).

While not explicitly lesbian in any way, the lesbians who made up probably 50 percent of the audience could feel a lot of women's loving being poured over us from the stage. McCord and Jackson especially seem to have an affectionate familiarity from their frequent playing together over the years. On the second encore "Swing Low," McCord and Parris traded off the first two verses. Bermejo took the third with a positively spiritual scatting that sounded like fervent praying "in tongues." As the band wound up for the finale, McCord gave the nod to Jackson to take the lead. With obvious relish, Jackson stepped down toward the audience and took us through I don't know how many octaves, into a crescendo of all four voices with the throat wide open.

The only disappointment of the evening was perhaps inherent in the structure of four vocalists doing only two separate songs each and a couple of chorus numbers. It seemed they hardly had a chance to get warmed up and we were left wondering, if they were that good inside an ensemble, what would happen if they each had the space to really stretch out.

As a testament to how good the music made us all feel, I'll pass along the genuine grin given me by my concert neighbor, a husband and father who had seemed uncomfortable either with my feet resting on the back of the pew in front of us or with the women all around him entwined in each other's arms. Ah, that grin of surprised mutual pleasure: the "savage beast" pacified, a revolution of hearts inspired. Thank you Poor People's Fund and Women's Theological Center. And thank you, Sisters in the Spirit.

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GCN SPECIALS

Fight the Right!

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BOSTON GAY HISTORY

We are seeking information on Scollay Square and its immediate surroundings during and before World War II, especially on the Imperial Cafe and Hotel as a cruising and drinking spot for seamen, as well as the Old Howard Burlesque on Howard St. and the Casino Burlesque on Hanover St., the 5c all-night movie theaters. Any contributions will be greatly appreciated. Please write Freddie Greenfield, c/o GCN, 167 Tremont St., 5th Fl., Boston, MA 02111 or call (617) 426-4469 and leave a message so we can set up an interview.

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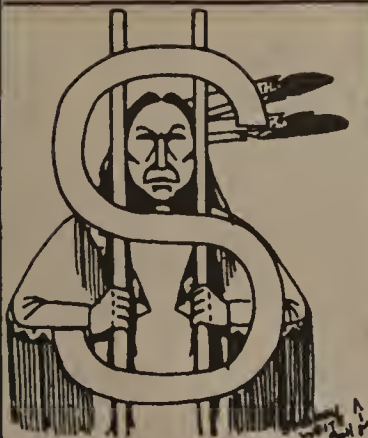
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I like poems, sewing, painting, writing letters. Wish you would write me soon. Elaine N.M.B. NEWMAN, 93011, PO Box 141, Philippi WV 26416.

I'm a bi female, 44, and would love to hear from all. J.F. PEOPLES, 8003, PO Box 141, Philippi WV 26416.

I'm oversexed. Write me and see if you can cool me down. Colletta COLLINS, 17030, PO Box 141, Philippi WV 26416.

I'm half black, half Indian, 44 breast, big brown nipple, XL clit. Write soon. PO Box 141, Philippi WV 26416.



GCN GAY AND LESBIAN PRISONER PROJECT

We send free papers, books (when they are donated and when money for postage is donated) and run free penpal ads. (There's sometimes a long waiting list because of limited space.) Little by little as we get more volunteer labor power we'll be looking for other ways to support lesbians and gay men behind bars. If you can help with your time or a contribution (of money or paperbacks), please send to Gay and Lesbian Prisoner Project, c/o GCN, 167 Tremont St., 5th Fl., Boston, MA 02111. Thanks!

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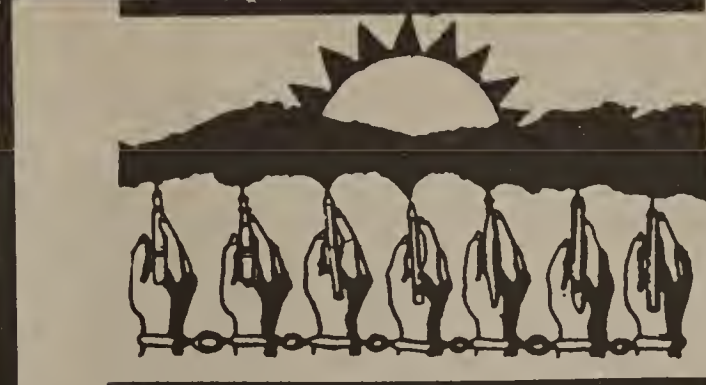
I'm still receiving my GCN and it's great! But I'm still in need of a friend. I'm crazy about furry animals, good music and dancing. But what I like most is a hot man who will try anything once. Ricky MILBURN, EF-151355, 4600 Fulton Mill Rd., Macon GA 31213.

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BLACK AND WHITE MEN TOGETHER: is an interracial, intercultural gay men's organization with over 30 chapters. They provide social, political, and educational programs. For more info write: IA-BWMT, 584 Castro St., San Francisco CA 94114.



Lonely prisoner, well endowed, looking for correspondence with sincere people any sex and swinging bi couples for friendship and future pleasurable good times. Joseph DYKES, 319170, Rt 4 Box 1100, Rosharon TX 77583.

Black male, black eyes, wavy hair, a Pisces, bodybuilder interested in fashion, creative art, all music, and gay me, and looking for someone to share all this with. Raymond GAITHER, Rt 1 Box 36, Jackson NC 27845.

I feel that my sexuality is what makes me a strong person. It's a wonderful thing when there's a lot of feeling with it! I would love to write to someone who reads GCN. I'm into boxing, walking in the sun, holding hands, talking, and kissing. I like being close to my love at all times but I understand that a person needs time to be alone just to think things out so that they can be a better lover with a little more understanding. E. L. CARROLL, A835908, 3876 Evans Rd, Box 50, Polk City FL 33868.

Gay man, very sincere, looking for friends to ease this time. Send a photo if you can (not necessary). Don SHEW, PO Box 746, Troy NC 27371.

I'm into computer work, TV, reading, philosophy, libertarian, with the libido of a 19 yr old and would like to establish contact with some people. Who knows? We might like each other! William SALMI, C-71697, PO Box 2000, Vacaville CA 95696.

I still wish to write to someone on the outs. Going away empty-handed at mail call hurts. I know I shouldn't take it personal, but in a way I do. I am helpless in a way and at a loss. I am very friendly and outgoing. I love day's of sitting in my art shop, smoking a cig, drinking a good cup of coffee, and painting and drawing pictures. But there is the other side of me when I want to go out doors with nature, hiking and cooking hot dogs on an open fire. I'd love to write someone. Michael ROBINSON, Unit 9 ISCI, PO Box 14, Boise ID 83707.

I am looking for a person who has a little time and cares about people who have time and would like to share their thoughts (for example, about having someone in the white house who'd pass some bills benefitting gay rights. My past work has been as a lifeguard, trucker and I love working with handicapped children. Charles Paul DUNN, 287584, D12 4 wing, PO Box 520, Walla Walla WA 99362.

I'm looking for someone to share my feelings and thoughts with. Hobbies include poetry, aerobic dancing, sports, and music. I'm me and I enjoy everything. I'm gentle and go both ways and I do have a little class and style. Jerry LEWIS, 055544, PO Box 500 No.626, Cross City FL 32628.

I'd like to find someone who'd like to exchange thoughts now and then. I'm into cooking, reading, playing pool, and swimming. Michael PLUMMER, 154-639, Box 45699, Lucasville OH 45699.



Dignity/Boston

By Warren Blumenfeld

They come dressed in many different styles: some men wear three-piece suits and some come in less formal jeans and leather. A few women show off new long dresses, while others don athletic outfits or overalls.

As they enter the large room, the atmosphere is charged and frenetic, but as the priest begins the service, as these gentle people join hands, hearts and minds, there seems to be a collective sigh of relief. Here there is a genuine feeling of safety, of friendship and of trust.

Long white candles flicker as people step in slow procession to the altar to accept the bread and wine of the Holy Eucharist. As each in turn is blessed by the priest, sounds of the hymn "Earthen Vessels" rise from those assembled:
Light has shone in the darkness,
God has shown in our hearts,
With the light of the glory of Jesus, the Lord,
We hold a treasure not made of gold,
In earthen vessels, wealth untold...

Sponsored by Dignity/Boston, the worship service held each Sunday evening at the Arlington Street Church is not unlike those celebrated at most Catholic churches, with the possible exception that here the majority of worshippers are lesbians, gays and their friends.

Led on a rotating basis by one of seven ordained priests, the service opens with a prayer of welcome followed by a reading from the Bible and a homily (sermon). On occasion, a lay person will present the homily. This is followed by the "Prayers of the Faithful" and the "Offering of the Gifts" in which five lay Eucharistic

Ministers bring the bread and wine to the altar where it is consecrated (blessed by the priest). The worshippers then walk up to the altar to accept Holy Communion and the mass comes to an end with the closing prayers.

It might be asked, though, why gays and lesbians would wish to participate in a religion whose traditional doctrines define their sexual practices as "sinful." To Dignity/Boston president Lourdes Rogriguez the answer is simple. "You can't change the Church if you leave it," she said. "Christianity is an integral part of many of us and you can't just cut it out, nor do we wish to."

Local Niches

Founded over 11 years ago, Dignity/Boston has the largest active membership of any lesbian, or gay organization in the area. Approaching 200 in number, members come from a wide range of backgrounds. In age, there are those who are in the midst of their seventh decade while some of the younger members have barely completed their second. There are professional people, students, tradespeople; those who are deeply involved in politics and others whose only access to the gay and lesbian community is here. All, however, have a common belief, as outlined in the Dignity constitution, that "Gay Catholics are members of Christ's mystical body, numbered among the people of God" and therefore "it is our right,

our privilege, and our duty to live the sacramental life of the church, so that we might become more powerful instruments of God's love working among all people."

In addition to providing a spiritual base, Dignity serves an educational function by promoting the cause of the gay community. Through an active outreach program, its aim is the development of a positive and affirming sexual theology within the Catholic Church and the full and equal acceptance of lesbians and gays both within the Church and within the

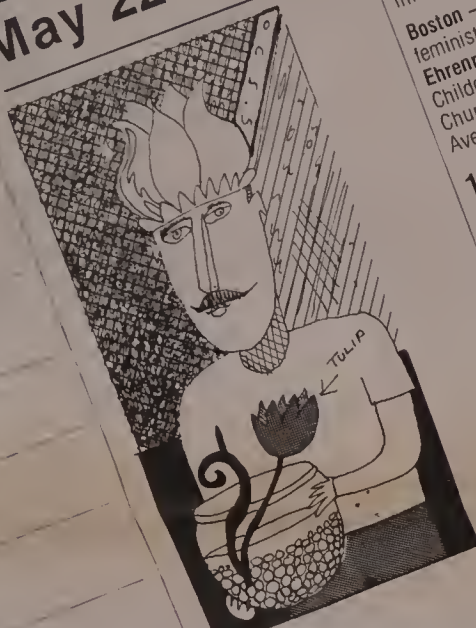
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Calendar Pull Out

<p>BOSTON-AREA GAY/LESBIAN BUSINESS GUIDE</p> <p>ACCOMMODATIONS</p> <p>OASIS GUEST HOUSE 22 Edgerly Rd. Boston, MA 02115 (617) 267-2262</p> <p>WATERSHIP INN P.O.Box 918 7 Winthrop St. Provincetown, MA 02657 (617) 487-0094</p> <p>ACUPUNCTURE</p> <p>SEAN VARNUM Suite 401 678 Mass Ave. Cambridge, MA 02139 (617) 576-2114 (617) 321-8818</p> <p>LIMOUSINE SERVICES</p> <p>WAITES ROLLS ROYCE LIMOUSINE SERVICE Christopher Waites (617) 567-0420 (305) 564-1292</p> <p>CHIROPRACTORS</p> <p>DR. EDWARD COHEN Brookline Family Chiropractic Office 1330 Beacon St. Brookline, MA 02146 (617) 734-7744</p> <p>DR. JONATHAN D. STEIN 375 Harvard St. Brookline, MA 02146 (617) 232-7200</p> <p>DR. JAN RISING 418 Washington St., Suite 112 Brighton, MA 02135 (617) 782-0267</p> <p>CINEMA</p> <p>ART CINEMA 204 Tremont St. Boston, MA 02111 (617) 482-4661</p> <p>NORTH STATION CINEMA 2 175 Portland St. Boston, MA 02114 (617) 227-0513</p>	<p>MOVERS</p> <p>BOSTON TRUCKING CO. (617) 641-1234</p> <p>DENTISTRY</p> <p>DR. RICHARD BANKHEAD DR. PAUL GROIPEN 1259 Hyde Park Ave. Hyde Park, MA 02136 (617) 364-5500</p> <p>JOHN C. BARNA, D.M.D. 739 Boylston St. Boston, MA 02116 (617) 353-1500</p> <p>ILLUSTRATION/DESIGN</p> <p>JEAN VALLON Everett St. Jamaica Plain, MA 02130 (617) 522-3278</p> <p>GYMS</p> <p>SOUTH END GYM 46 Waltham St. South End, Boston MA (617) 451-3514</p> <p>NEW ENGLAND WOMEN'S GYM 1261 Cambridge St. Inman Sq. Cambridge, MA 497-9776</p> <p>HOME REPAIRS</p> <p>GEORGE W. CASPER 47 Waldeck St. Dorchester, MA 02124 (617) 288-3228</p> <p>INFORMATION/MEDIA</p> <p>XANADU GRAPHICS 143 Albany St. Cambridge, MA 02139 661-6975</p> <p>INSURANCE</p> <p>DAVID L. COLLINS, CLU Suite 830 50 Congress St. Boston, MA 02109 1-800-352-3185</p> <p>MEDICAL/COUNSELING</p> <p>DR. STEPHEN J. GOLBURGH Licensed Clinical Psychologist 1330 Beacon St. #231 Brookline, MA 02146 (617) 734-6996</p>	<p>JACK CEMPELLIN, M.S. COUNSELING AND HYPNOSIS 8 Woodbury Court Salem, MA 01970 (617) 745-2939</p> <p>GENDER IDENTITY SERVICE OF NEW ENGLAND 136 Causeway St. Hudson, MA 01749 (617) 568-0680</p> <p>CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATES Dr. Herbert Lovett Dr. Beth Leimkuhler 36 Newbury St. Boston, MA 02116 (617) 292-4532</p> <p>ALLAN SINGER, LICSW PSYCHOTHERAPIST Copley Square Boston, MA 02116 (617) 266-2240</p> <p>ARADIA COUNSELING FOR WOMEN 520 Commonwealth Ave. Kenmore Square Boston, MA 02115 (617) 247-4861</p> <p>LAMBDA COUNSELING ASSOCIATES 324 Marlborough St. Boston, MA 02116 (617) 353-1729</p> <p>TAPESTRY, Inc. 20 Sacramento St. Cambridge, MA 02138 (617) 661-0248</p> <p>GAY AND LESBIAN COUNSELING SERVICE 600 Washington St., Rm. 219 Boston, MA 02111 542-5188</p> <p>NORTH SHORE CMHC COUNSELING 47 Congress St. Salem, MA 01970 (617) 744-5322</p> <p>PLACE/HOTLINE AND COUNSELING 32 Rutland St. Boston, MA (617) 267-9150</p> <p>SOUTHERN JAMAICA PLAIN HEALTH CENTER 687 Centre St. Jamaica Plain, MA 02130 (617) 522-5900</p>	<p>THE NEXT STEP Counseling and Training Cambridge & Newton Offices (617) 491-6430</p> <p>FENWAY COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER 16 Haviland St. Boston, MA 02115 (617) 267-7573</p> <p>MASS. BAY COUNSELING ASSOC. 25 Huntington Ave. #331 Boston, MA 02116 (617) 353-0225</p> <p>COUNSELING ASSOCIATES 23 East Main St. Westboro, MA 01581 (617)-366-8576</p> <p>FRANCIS GIAMBRONE, MA, COUNSELING 110 Orchard St. Somerville, MA 02144 (617) 628-6988</p> <p>FLORISTS</p> <p>REMEMBRANCES FLORAL DESIGN 12 Mt. Auburn St. Watertown Square. MA 02172 (617) 926-4289</p> <p>PODIATRY</p> <p>A HOUSECALL Jeanne M. Arnold, DPM William A. Sandberg, DPM (617) 396-7527</p> <p>REMODELING</p> <p>T.H.E. CONTRACTORS, INC. 36 Pine St. Chelsea, MA 02150 (617) 889-4347</p> <p>LITTLE BEAR AND COMPANY (617) 296-1770</p> <p>LANDSCAPE DESIGN/BUILD</p> <p>BEST LANDSCAPE DESIGN CO. 53 Hawthorne St. Somerville, MA 02144 (617) 776-6377</p> <p>ROGER WASHBURN Licensed Landscape Architect 53 Hawthorne St. Somerville, Ma. 02144 (617) 776-6377</p>	<p>REAL ESTATE</p> <p>MARK THOMAS CO, LTD Mark Zimmerman Charles St. Boston, MA 02114 (617) 227-2209</p> <p>RACHAEL REALTY CO. INC. 318 Harvard St. #31 The Arcade Building Brookline, MA 02146 277-0230</p> <p>TAX PREPARATION</p> <p>MARJORIE E. POSNER 33 Ashcroft St. Jamaica Plain, MA 02130 524-7565</p> <p>TRAVEL</p> <p>FOREX TRAVEL 76 Arlington St. Boston Park Plaza 482-2900</p> <p>WOMEN</p> <p>NEW WORDS BOOKSTORE 186 Hampshire St. Cambridge, MA 02139 (617) 876-5310</p> <p>WOMENCRAFTS, INC. P.O. Box 190 373 Commercial St. Provincetown, MA 02657</p> <p>WOMEN'S BARS</p> <p>THE MARQUEE 512 Mass Ave Cambridge, MA 02139 492-9545</p> <p>SOMEWHERE/ELSE 295 Franklin St. Boston, MA 423-7730</p> <p>BOOKSTORES</p> <p>GLAD DAY BOOKSTORE 43 Winter St. Boston, MA 02108 (617) 542-0144</p> <p>This guide provides a listing of gay/lesbian owned, staffed, or supportive businesses and services. To have your business or service listed (for only \$100.00 per year) call 426-4469</p>
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April 14
to
May 22



14 saturday

Watertown—Building Bridges, a new approach to women and men and relationships, presents a full-day workshop with Ann Neill and Charles Kreiner. Bring lunch. Pre-registration \$30. Info: 598-7118.

Natick, MA—Tri-County Association social meeting. 8PM. Bruce's house. Info: 655-5644.

New Haven, CT—Washington, DC Feminist Chorus perform. 2PM. Trinity Episcopal Church. Admission \$2 and \$3.

Boston—Women and Poverty in Massachusetts, organized by Arts and Sciences. College of Public and Community Service, UMass/Boston. 9AM to 5:30PM. UMass Harbor Campus. Registration. Info: 929-7387.

Cambridge—Workshop on editing and publishing with Nancy Bereano, editor of the Feminist Series at Crossing Press. New Words Bookstore. 186 Hampshire. Info: 876-5310.

15 sunday

Newton, MA—Gay/Lesbian Group starting! First meeting at 4-5:30pm. Info/location: Alan 244-3714 or 964-6186.

Cambridge—Kathleen Fleming, author of *Lovers in the Present Afternoon*, reading from her work. New Words Bookstore. 186 Hampshire. 2pm. Donation. Info: 876-5310.

Boston—Teresa Trull and Barbara Higbie will perform at Somewhere Else, at 6:30 and 9:30pm. Jess Leary and Wendy Sobel will open. 295 Franklin St. Info: 423-7730.

Cambridge—Grenada: the Future Coming Toward Us and Bitter Cane, two films in the Angry Arts series. \$2.50 donation. 7:30PM. Cambridge YWCA. 7 Temple St., Central Sq. Info: 776-1247.

Cambridge—Word is Out will be shown by the Harvard/Radcliffe Gay and Lesbian Student Association as part of Gay Awareness Day. Free. 12:30. Harvard Science Center. Info: 495-5476.

Boston—Without God on Our Side, a talk by feminist historian and author Barbara Ehrenreich. Special music by Betsy Rose. Childcare. Free. 11:00AM. Community Church of Boston, Morse Aud., 602 Comm Ave., one block from Kenmore Square.

16 monday

Boston—Diet and Nutrition, a lecture by national powerlifting champ Cat Chase. \$5. 7:30PM. South End Gym, 1355A Washington St., No. 108. Info: 451-3514.

Concord, MA—Patriot's Day canoe trip with Chiltern Mountain Club. Info: Wayne. 536-3496.

Cambridge—First Night of Passover. Jewish Women's Open Discussion Group. Info: 354-8807.

Boston—Chiltern Mt. Club, Assabet/Concord Rivers canoe trip. Info: Wayne. (617) 536-3496.

Boston—The first of a five-part interview by Dennis Iadaroia with porn star Ron Pierson as well as a further installment of an interview with Drs. McWhirter and Mattison, authors of *The Male Couple* on Boston's Other Voice. 12:30AM. WROR, 98.5 FM.

17 tuesday

Cambridge—The Mysterious Death of CT List, the thriller of the century, in a Little Flagg Theater for Survival. \$8.00. 8PM. Mobilization for Survival, Hasty Pudding American Repertory Company. Info: reservations. 354-0008.

Salem, MA—Coming Out, an informal discussion presented by the North Shore Lesbian and Gay Alliance. Free. New members welcome. 7:00PM. A&B Lounge, College Union, Salem State College. Info: 745-3848.

18 wednesday

Cambridge—Mass. Gay Political Caucus holds community meeting to strategize for passage of state gay rights bill. All gay, lesbian and progressive groups and individuals urged to attend. 8PM. Room 200, Pound Hall, Harvard Law School. Info: Ben. 266-6139.

Cambridge—Lesbian and Gay Associated Engineers and Scientists meet at 8pm at the GAMIT Lounge, room 50-306, MIT Walker Bldg, 142 Mem. Dr. Info: 288-3228.

Cambridge—Feminist Therapy is the topic of discussion this week at Cambridge Women Center. 46 Pleasant St. 8pm. Info: 354-8807.

20 friday

Amherst—A Chiltern Mountain Club weekend in the area, with folkdancing, a hike and a potluck dinner. Info: Dudley. (413) 256-6178. Michael, (617) 783-2165.

Cambridge—Am Tikva's Shabbat service and a discussion of Sexuality and Health. 8PM. 312 Memorial Dr. Bring refreshments.

21 saturday

Hop River, CT—Chiltern Mountain Club day trip for Class I and II paddlers. Info: John. (617) 783-2561.

Boston—The 1984 Elections and the Socialist Alternative, a forum featuring Larry Holmes, Workers World Party presidential candidate. Childcare, wheelchair accessible. 7:30PM. Room 222, UMass, 100 Arlington St. Info: 247-1778.

Augusta, ME—Domestic Violence in the Gay/Lesbian Community is the topic for the Interweave program night, which is preceded by a potluck dinner, which begins at 6:00PM. All Souls Unitarian Church, 11 King St.

Boston—Life Begins at 40... and at 80, a talk by Dr. Freda Reblsky, professor of psychology at Boston U., and research associate in medicine at Children's Hospital. With music by Joseph Fish. Free. Childcare provided. 11:00AM. Community Church of Boston, Morse Auditorium, 602 Comm Ave., one block from Kenmore Square.

23 monday

Boston—Injuries: Preventing Them and Rehabilitating From Them, a lecture by national powerlifting champ Cat Chase. \$5. 7:30PM. South End Gym, 1355A Washington St., No. 108. Info: 451-3514.

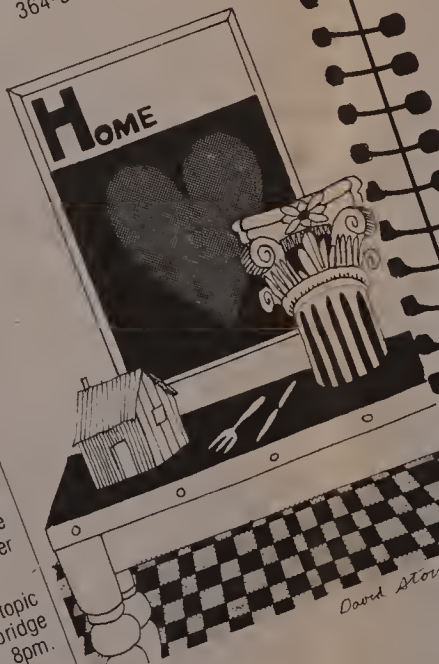
24 tuesday

Salem, MA—North Shore Gay and Lesbian Alliance presents *Zorro the Gay Blade*. Refreshments available. Donations requested. 7:00PM. Grace Episcopal Church, 385 Essex St.

19 thursday

Cambridge—Marita Golden will be reading at New Words Bookstore. 186 Hampshire. 7:30pm. \$2 donation. Info: 876-5310.

Jamaica Plain—Lesbian and Gay Constituency Group of the Rainbow Coalition meets at 7:30pm on the 1st floor, 75 Williams St., Info: Malkah, 364-5938 or Helen. 522-6283.



Holliston, MA—Tri-County Association Steering Committee meeting. Open to all. 8PM. Cliff and Dave's. Info: 429-6593.

26 thursday

Cambridge—Daughters of Bilitis sponsors a Younger Women's Rap Group. All women 22 and under welcome. 8PM. Old Cambridge Baptist Church, 1151 Mass Ave. Info: 661-3633.

27 friday

Portland, ME—John Preston reads from his latest book, *Once Had a Master and Other Tales of Erotic Love*. Free. 8PM. Our Books, 4 Pine St.

28 saturday

Boston—Ntozake Shange, author of *colored girls who have considered suicide*, will speak in a celebration of the 125th anniversary of the founding of the YWCA. \$5 for the event or \$15 for the event and the reception which follows. 7:00PM. Arlington Street Church, 355 Boylston St. Info: 491-6050.

Boston—Civil Disobedience: A Workshop for Lawyers and Activists, sponsored by National Lawyers Guild. Donation requested. 9AM to 5PM. Northeastern University Law School, 400 Huntington Ave. Info: 227-7335.

Boston—Fighting for Our Lives, a conference on AIDS coordinated by the Education Subcommittee of the AIDS Action Committee. \$5. Pre-registration by April 20 is recommended. 9AM to 5PM. Don Bosco Technical School, 300 Tremont St. Info: 536-7733.

Cambridge—Writing workshop with Maureen Brady, author of *Folly and Give Me Your Good Ear*. Limited space. New Words Bookstore, 186 Hampshire St., Inman Square. Info: 876-5310.

Boston—Remembrance: Mabel Amber Bailor and Evergreen Solitude, one-woman shows produced by Women in Theater and Watermelon Studio. \$5.50. Opens 8PM. Gallery Naga, 67 Newbury St. Reservations: 776-4514.

Holliston, MA—Tri-County Association Steering Committee meeting at Cliff and Dave's. Open to all. 8PM. Info: 429-6593.

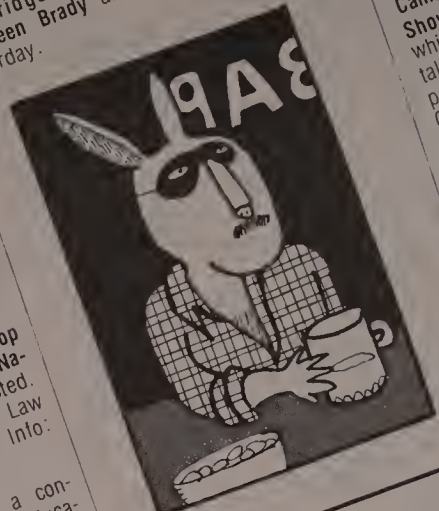
29 sunday

Cambridge—Daughters of Bilitis open house. All women welcome. Music. Cambridge Baptist Church, 1151 Mass Ave. Info: 661-3633.

Boston—Sacco-Vanzetti award to civil rights and peace activist Cynthia Anthonson Foster from the Community Church of Boston. With speaker Rev. Donald Lothrop on *The Radical Church: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow*. Free. Childcare provided. With readings from the letters of Sacco and Vanzetti and music by Ruth Hamilton. 11AM. the Community Church of Boston, Morse Aud. 602 Comm Ave.

Waban—Get Ready for the Draft: How to Be Prepared, an open meeting sponsored by Parents Against the Draft. Presentations by draft counselors and the film *Choice or Chance*. Free. 4PM. Union Church, corner of Beacon St. and Collins Rd., near the Waban Station on the Riverside line. Info: 232-6060.

Cambridge—Writing workshop with Maureen Brady at New Words. See 28 Saturday.



12 saturday

Cambridge—Amethyst Women Talent Show. A drug- and alcohol-free event to which all women are invited to share their talents in music, dance, theater, poetry and prose reading. \$4, more if, less if. 7:30PM. Old Cambridge Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. To perform call 666-4864, 7 to 9PM. or 641-1168 (keep trying) before April 29.



may 5 saturday

Salem, MA—Families: Lesbian and Gay Perspectives, a working conference sponsored by the North Shore Community Mental Health Center's Gay and Lesbian Counseling Program and the National Association of Social Workers. Speakers, workshops, roundtable discussion. 9AM to 4PM. Campus Center, Salem State College. Info and registration: NASW Boston, 227-9635, or David Aronstein, 744-5322.

11 friday

Boston—Spring Dance and Buffet sponsored by Dignity/Boston. \$11 for Dignity members, \$13 for non-members. 9:30PM to 12:30AM. Boston Center for Adult Education, 5 Comm Ave. For reservations, call 536-6518 and leave name and number.

Boston—Auction '84, fundraising event of the Boston Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance. Hors d'oeuvres, cash bar, door prizes. Guest auctioneers Barney Frank, David Scondras, Abby Browne. \$5 donation. 7:30. Lenox Hotel, Copley Square.

The GCN weekly calendar includes events in the Boston area of interest to the lesbian and gay community. We try not to leave anything out but remember, we depend on you to keep us informed. Let us know as early as possible what your group is planning.

The deadline is Friday noon for the following issue. Just send the information to GCN Calendar, 167 Tremont Street, Fifth Floor, Boston, MA 02111.

Holly Near will be in Boston on Saturday, May 5 for a performance with Inti-Ililmani, a Chilean folk group that has been in exile since the 1973 coup, as part of a "National Friendship Tour" (see Features Notes). Inti-Ililmani is one of the pioneering groups of the Chilean New Song Movement (see this week's Centrespread).



Notes

Compiled by Michael Bronski

near and friendship

Holly Near and Inti-Illimani, a six-man Chilean folk group, will perform at the Orpheum Theater at 8:00 PM on Saturday May 5.

Crossing paths several times in the past years, Near and the Inti-Illimani have called their teaming up a "National Friendship Tour" with the intention to make music and reflect both cultural diversity and bring attention to international human concerns. The tour will remind people of the popular protests against the Pinochet government and the cultural renaissance which is taking place in Nicaragua and other Central American countries.

The National Friendship Tour is being sponsored by Cultural Work Inc., a non-profit organization, to support cultural, political and educational work. Tickets will be available at the Orpheum box office or by calling Tickettron at 800-223-1814.

here today, art today

The *Here Today Gallery* will be presenting the work of Amy Cohen and Michael Belchere — "Surrealistic Drawings and Installations" — April 15 through May 6. There will be an opening reception Sunday April 15 between 3 and 7. The regular gallery hours are Wednesday through Friday, 3 to 8PM, Saturday, 11AM to 7PM and Sunday 1 to 7PM.

Here Today is located at 74 Kilmarnock Street, Boston. Special appointments can be made by calling 262-6601.

soc sch con

The Socialist Scholars Conference will take place at the Borough of Manhattan Community College CUNY, 199 Chambers St., New York City between April 19 and 21. Two discussions may be of interest to GCN readers: "Sexuality and the Current State of the Feminist Movement," featuring Amber Hollibaugh, Rosalind Petchesky and Ellen Willis, will take place Friday, April 20 from 7:30 to 9:30 PM; and "Reproduction and Sexual Freedom" with Michele Fine Carol Joffe and Kate Ellis, will be between 3:00 and 5:00 on Saturday, April 21. Registration ranges from \$15 to \$50.00. More information can be obtained from (212) 790-4320 or 260-1078.

Niches

Continued from front of Calendar section
society at large. It is also attempting to reinforce and strengthen a sense of self-acceptance in its members and others in the community.

Looking back into its past, Dignity was founded as a national organization in Los Angeles 15 years ago. Today there are over 100 local chapters throughout the United States and Canada. To facilitate communication between individual chapters, each is designated a region. Periodically, chapter delegates attend a regional conference to exchange information and discuss issues of common concern. Then every two years delegates from all the chapters meet at their National convention.

The last convention was held in Seattle, Washington in 1983 where an interesting situation came to pass. Though a majority of those within the Catholic Church hierarchy deny Dignity's existence, Archbishop Hunthausen of Seattle took exception by formally welcoming delegates to the city and by opening up one of the archdiocesan churches for a Dignity mass in which assistants to the Archbishop took part. This was done over the protests of Seattle's more conservative fundamentalists.

The next National convention is slated for 1985 in New York City.

Presently, Dignity/Boston is coordinated by a nine-member Executive Board elected by the membership on the first Sunday in December to serve for one year. From this Board are elected the officers: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary. This selection process may soon change to include a direct election of officers by the membership at large.

The Board is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the organization and for the administration of the five standing committees:

- The Education Committee sets up workshops for members on an array of topics including male and female imagery in the Bible, and the use of non-sexist language in the liturgy. There has also been a panel discussion on AIDS. This Committee also does outreach to gay and lesbian groups and to other community organizations.

- The Liturgy Committee helps to plan and run the religious services.

- The Friends of Dignity Committee is the organization's social arm, planning dances and

eroto-art

The Basement, 127 Prince Street, New York, will be presenting a group show of male erotica featuring the work of Etienne, Eddy Cervone, John Dinsdale and Michael Anderson. The opening will be on April 12 between 5 and 9. Regular gallery hours are Thursday through Sunday, 1-6PM or by appointment, (212) 228-7160. Besides the gallery the Basement also offers an exclusive selection of leathers by Rob Amsterdam. The group show will be on display until May 20.

glad readings

Canadian gay author David Watmough will read from his new book, *The Connecticut Countess: Gay Chronicles of Davey Bryant* (Crossing Press, \$7.95) at Glad Day Bookshop, Friday April 20.

Watmough is the author of several other books including *Ashes for Easter*, a book of stories, and the novel *No More Into the Garden*. His work has been highly praised by the gay press. Allen Young, writing in *Gay Community News*, called Watmough "a sort of earthy Christopher Isherwood."

Of his new book lesbian author Jane Rule has written, "Davey Bryant, like his creator David Watmough, fictionalizes his own life, trying on different sorts of parents, different sorts of siblings as well as different sorts of experience. A blatant liar, he tells the real truth: imagination has many lives. Each of these stories is a resurrection of self, a new possibility, a new limitation. We laugh at, we judge, we forgive him and, therefore, ourselves."

The reading will begin at 8 PM at Glad Day Bookshop, which is located across from the Park St. "T" in downtown Boston. A two-dollar donation is requested and refreshments will be served.

The Watmough reading is part of Glad Day's Spring Series. Coming on May 11 is lesbian and feminist Cherrie Moraga reading from her *Loving in the War Years*, and on May 24 Michael McDowell and Dennis Shute will celebrate publication of *Slate*, their third mystery written under the pseudonym of Nathan Aldyne.

parties among which have been the Halloween Party and a Mardi Gras celebration.

- The Women's Concerns Committee brings Dignity women together to plan special events, including the annual "Liturgy in Celebration of Women" which, according to the February-March 1984 *Dignity/Boston Newsletter*, "both acknowledges the contributions of women and reminds us of their absence from the official structures of the Church."

- The Peace and Justice Committee serves a political and social concerns function. It coordinates actions such as demonstrations at Draper Labs in Cambridge calling for a halt to the manufacture of materials used for war; a weekly "Peace Vigil" (Sundays, 12:30-1:00 in Copley Square) along with other Back Bay churches to pray silently for peace in the world; an annual "Walk for Hunger" sponsored by Project Bread, an interfaith hunger program, to provide meals to hungry people in Greater Boston and around the world; and participation in an Oxfam/America "Fast for a World Harvest." Also, as a joint venture with the Arlington Street Church, the Peace and Justice Committee runs a "Friday Evening Supper Club" in the basement of the Church to help feed anyone who is in need of a good meal.

Other Dignity/Boston projects and activities include a bi-monthly newsletter providing news and features of interest to the membership, reports of past meetings and a listing of upcoming events; occasional week-end spiritual retreats in the country and other outings such as bay cruises and trips to Provincetown on Cape Cod; and fundraising events including auctions and bake sales.

One group member who participates in many of the activities is Ann, a teacher and a Dignity member for the past eight years. As a student in a Catholic parochial school for 12 years, she at one time wanted to be a nun until she fell in love with a woman. Now when she attends other churches she often feels as if she is merely a visitor, but at Dignity she feels at home. "Here there is a real sense of community, of family," she said. "It doesn't even matter what religion you are because we have people from other religions. Here you can get in touch with your spirituality."

A member who agrees with Ann's assessment of the strong bonds found at Dignity is

cadmus at mfa

Paul Cadmus: Enfant Terrible at 80, a new documentary produced and directed by David Sutherland, will be presented by the Museum of Fine Arts.

Cadmus, known since the early 1930s for his painting, much of which is frankly homoerotic, is interviewed in his home and in his studio talking about his life and work. The entire film is told in his words without the intervention of a narrator in order for the "artist to act as a host in a film about himself."

Paul Cadmus will be presented on Friday, April 27, at 8:00, on Tuesday May 8 and Thursday May 10 at 3:00, and on May 11 at 11:00AM. All screenings will take place in the Remis Auditorium of the West Wing Building at the Museum of Fine Arts.

angry arts on the caribbean

Angry Arts will be presenting the New England premiere of *Bitter Cane*, a documentary about Haiti, on April 13 through 15 at 7:30 at the Cambridge YWCA, 7 Temple St.

Bitter Cane is an award-winning film which examines the social and political life of Haiti, much of which was filmed clandestinely and features narration by Haitian songwriter and poet Jean-Claude Martineau. Martineau resides in Boston and will be present for all three showings. *Bitter Cane* will be presented as a double bill with *Grenada: The Future Coming Toward Us*, a documentary filmed just before the US invasion of the island. A \$2.50 donation will be requested at the door.

lesbian mom film gets funding

Women's Educational Media was recently awarded a grant of \$2,500 from the Somerville Arts Lottery Council for the *Choosing Children* film project. The funds will be used to defray post-production costs for this documentary about lesbians who decide to become mothers *after* coming out. Almost two years in the making, the film is 80 percent shot and editing has begun. A summer release date is anticipated.

Rick Roy, a nurse, who has been attending Dignity activities regularly for the past year. "The sense of community and belonging is not just on a superficial level like at the bars," he said. "At Dignity we share a common set of beliefs."

People like Ann and Rick can see the value of a Church which is truly open to the needs of gays and lesbians, but this sentiment is not held by the hierarchy of Boston's Catholic Church. Dignity's Executive Board has made repeated attempts in the past to lay roads of communication with the late Archbishop Humberto Medeiros of Boston; however, all attempts were ignored. An aide to Archbishop Medeiros even returned a donation check which Dignity contributed to the Cardinal Stuart Fund, a Church-run charity.

With the recent installation of Archbishop Bernard Law, Dignity/Boston members are hoping for closer ties with the archdiocese. In a letter dated February 7, 1984, the Dignity/Boston Board drafted a letter to Archbishop Law congratulating him on his new appointment and welcoming him to the area. The letter went on to ask him to "consider the possibility of authorizing pastoral care for your sons and daughters who are openly gay and lesbian."

Dignity/Boston Vice President John Carrier stated that no response has yet been received from the Archbishop though one may be forthcoming once he has had a chance to settle into his new post. Dignity/Boston recently held a strategy session on the issue of making further contacts with the archdiocese.

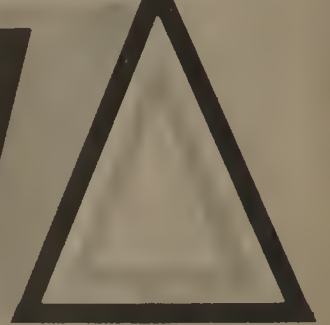
Further Dignity/Boston events include a spring dance to be held on Friday, May 11 from 9:30 to 12:30 PM at the Boston Center for Adult Education, and participation, as in years past, under the Dignity/Boston banner at this year's Lesbian and Gay Pride March.

People wishing to contact Dignity/Boston are invited to call the 355 Boylston Street office at (617) 536-6518 for information and support. Referrals to other organizations and a list of priests who are supportive around gay and lesbian issues are also available.

Mass is celebrated each Sunday evening beginning at 5:30 at the Arlington Street Church, located on the corner of Arlington and Boylston Streets in downtown Boston. All are welcome to attend.

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